

# OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OIL SPILL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

## AGENDA

Thursday, April 10, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Garibaldi Conference Room, 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605

To Participate via Microsoft Teams, use the link [Click here to join the meeting](#)

To Participate via telephone: Call 1 (916) 535-0984, Conference ID: 45565119#

**TAC Members:** Matt Rezvani, Chair, Janell Myhre, Vice Chair, John Berge, Sejal Choksi-Chugh, Joseph Cobb, James Farner, Rue Furch, Edward Harmon, Lynn Korwatch, Kathleen Rogers, Peter Santillan, Michael Young

- I. Introduction (Heather Geldart, 5 Min.)
- II. OSPR Update (OSPR Program Managers, 25 Min.)
- III. Minutes from last meeting three meetings (9/25/24, 11/14/24, 1/31/25); allow time for public comments prior to approval (Matt Rezvani, Chair, 15 Min.)
- IV. Agency Briefings (90 Min.)
  - A. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission – Cody Aichele
  - B. California Coastal Commission – Jonathan Bishop
  - C. California State Lands Commission – Grace Kato
  - D. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection – James Hosler
  - E. California Geologic Energy Management Division – Doug Ito
  - F. State Water Resources Control Board – Mark Bare
  - G. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Jordan Stout
  - H. US Coast Guard – Ben Perry-Thistle
  - I. US Environmental Protection Agency – Katherine Lawrence

## LUNCH (60 Min.)

- V. OSPR and State Lands Budget Updates (Amir Sharifi and Grace Kato, 20 Min.)

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, including assistance with disability accommodations, please contact Brenda Brantley at (916) 557-3411.

At least one member of the TAC will participate remotely from a remote location. The public may also participate in the meeting remotely by using either the Microsoft Teams link or telephone number above.

- VI. Regulatory and Legislative Update (Christine Kluge, 15 Min.)
- VII. OSPR Enforcement Presentation (Lt. Brian Patrick, 20 Min.)
- VIII. Biennial Update (All, 15 Min.)
- IX. Next Meeting (Matt Rezvani, Chair, 5 Min.)

**Adjourn Meeting**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, including assistance with disability accommodations, please contact Brenda Brantley at (916) 557-3411.

At least one member of the TAC will participate remotely from a remote location. The public may also participate in the meeting remotely by using either the Microsoft Teams link or telephone number above.

## **FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BRANCH**

### **Finance**

In accordance with Government Code section 8670.42, the California Department of Finance (DOF), Office of State Audits and Evaluations, completed their audit of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) financial basis and programmatic effectiveness of the Oil Spill Prevention, Response, and Preparedness Program (Program). Their findings were published on December 31, 2024, and CDFW provided our Corrective Action Plan (CAP) on February 18, 2025. The audit period covered the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2024, time period.

Following Government Code Section 8670.40 (B) (i), on July 1, 2025, the fee specified in subdivision (a) was adjusted by an amount equal the increase or decrease in the California Consumer Price Index (CCPI) issued by the Department of Industrial Relations. The resulting fee was rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one cent (\$0.001) and increased from **\$0.094** to **\$0.096**.

### **Cost Recovery:**

The fall and winter months were busy for OSPR with on-going spill incidents and billings. Spill incidents include Marina Del Rey Vessel Fire (9/18/2024), Smith Canal Illegal Dumping (9/27/2024), Noyo River Incident (10/13/2024), Ventura Harbor Capsized Vessel (12/10/2024), and Santa Cruz Harbor Response (12/23/2024). The Cost Recovery Unit (CRU) continues to assist with billing for the following responses: Pipeline P00547 NRDA (10/1/2021), Dunsmuir Historical Oil (10/23/2018) and Smith Canal Illegal Dumping (9/27/2024).

The CRU opened 48 statewide spill cases from August 2024 through February 2025. Since August 2024, OSPR has recovered \$1,960,250.79 in response costs from 42 incidents (which includes Pipeline P00547 NRDA, Tanzanite Pond Incident, and Anaheim Cellar 3); \$447,015.98 in fines and penalties from 5 incidents (which includes Tanzanite Pond Incident and The Pine Incident).

### **Procurement/Contracts:**

The OSPR Procurement and Contract teams are working hard to ensure services and supplies are received in a timely manner to meet our mission-critical needs. We have entered our peak contract/purchasing time of year as we prepare for FY 24/25 end and the beginning of FY 25/26. Our staff are working with leads to ensure that requests are in the queue to meet Business Management Branch deadlines.

OSPR Procurement has prepared one hundred and thirty-five Purchase Orders for non-IT goods and twenty Purchase Orders for IT goods. The bulk of OSPR needs continue to be for field, safety and office supplies for day-to-day operations. This time around we had an increase in purchase requests for tires, laboratory equipment, and safety boots.

Between the months of September and February, OSPR Contracts has worked to execute two new payable grants, four standard agreements, four amendments, six short form contracts, three reimbursement agreements and two emergency contracts. Additionally, OSPR Contracts has prepared several agreements for the upcoming FY, which are pending execution for a July 1<sup>st</sup> start date.

### **Facilities:**

OSPR Facilities continues to assist with the building and grounds needs of all OSPR offices. The winter storms have brought about leaks and damage with immediate need for repairs. OSPR Facilities recently submitted a request to renew our Fairfield Office lease. We continue to wait for information on the site search for a new office location for our Seal Beach Office. We hope to provide additional information in our next report.

### **Fleet:**

OSPR Fleet continues to set up regular maintenance services for all pool vehicles and provide guidance to field response team staff on their vehicle maintenance/repair needs. Paperwork has been submitted to DGS to request that the OSPR Command trailer be transferred from OSPR to the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. A contract was awarded to begin the buildout of the OSPR Communications Van. The vessel Cabezon had a much-needed refresh with major maintenance/repair work. Additionally, code three equipment was removed from two vehicles in preparation for survey.

Strict standards on vehicle replacement have been implemented due to the state of the current budget. As a result, OSPR had no vehicles listed on the 24/25 Fleet Acquisition Plan. Consequently, more frequent repairs on our aging fleet assets are needed.

Telematics has officially been implemented, and electronic reporting has begun. OSPR Fleet continues to work with the Department's telematics team to resolve minor hiccups, but we are looking forward to the many benefits in the future.

**Personnel Updates:**

Staff changes throughout OSPR branches include:

**Incoming:**

Shelly Hunter, Environmental Scientist, Drills & Exercises – (8/2024); Erik Nadal, AGPA, Preparedness Branch – (10/2024); Vanessa Enriquez, AGPA, Preparedness Branch – (10/2024); Justin Sayegh, Oil Spill Prevention Specialist, Prevention Branch – (12/2024); Vanessa Garcia, Seasonal Aid, Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care & Research Center – (12/2024); Brecken Theders, Seasonal Aid, Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care & Research Center – (12/2024); Samantha Hamilton, Environmental Scientist (LT,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time), Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care & Research Center – (1/2025); Christine Askari, Sr. Environmental Scientist, Specialist, Laboratory Program – (2/2025)

**Outgoing:**

Daryl Simmons, Warden, Enforcement – (8/2024); Peter Boucher, Sr. Environmental Scientist (Specialist), NRDA Branch – (11/2024); Steven Brewer, Research Data Analyst II, GIS Unit – (11/2024); Erik Nadal, AGPA, Preparedness Branch – (11/2024); Christian Corbo, Lieutenant Supervisor, Enforcement – (12/2024); Teri Hickey, Warden, Enforcement – (12/2024); Bronwen Tomb, Attorney III, Legal Unit – (12/2024); Eric Milstein, Assistant Chief Counsel, Legal Unit – (12/2024); Nicole Smith, AGPA, Enforcement – (12/2024); Mary Fricke, Information Officer I, Specialist, Public Relations – (12/2024); Jimmie Morris, Maintenance Mechanic, Laboratory Program – (12/2024); Luisa Studen, Research Data Specialist I, GIS Unit – (2/2025)

**Internal transfer/promotions:**

Cara Bermudez (Promotion), Staff Services Analyst, Preparedness Branch – (10/2024)

## **Spill Response Technology & Support Branch**

### **TAC Update (April 2025)**

#### **Units:**

- **Safety**
- **Oiled Wildlife Response**
- **Best Achievable Technology (BAT)**
- **Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care & Research Center (MWVCRC)**
- **Applied Response Technology (ART)**
- **Fisheries Closure Coordination**
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

#### **News and Administration**

- **New Hires:** Two new hires (Scientific Aids) at MWVCRC, two open positions in GIS (one has been frozen, the other is at the interview stage)
- **Disability Awareness Committee (DAC)** - OSPR has a standing representative on the DAC promoting full representation and an outstanding workplace for all in the Department

#### **Safety**

- Support for field responses statewide
- Rolled out new Initial Site Safety Application – Simple, thorough site safety tool for use before a full incident-specific safety plan has been developed; allows for development of annotated maps and distribution of completed safety plan from field device (e.g., phone, iPad)
- Continual training – HAZWOPER refreshers, 24-hour training and 40-hour training; Personal Protection Equipment procurement and distribution
- Equipment calibration

#### **Oiled Wildlife & Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care & Research Facility**

- Field Responses – Several responses with wildlife impacts led by Wildlife Response Coord (Amanda Coleman)
- Supported Inter-agency biological resources response to Moss Landing Lithium-ion battery fire
- Providing wildlife monitoring for Santa Cruz cleanup operations from wharf storm damage
- Laird Henkel – Subject Matter Expert for Wildlife Branch, coordinating trainings and other opportunities
- WRC – Working with ERB (responding ESSs) for wildlife response deployment at different sized spills
- WRC – Initiating state-wide study of remote sensing tools for wildlife response with focus on nocturnal wildlife; may include hazing effectiveness assessment
- Wildlife Response Plan – Update in progress
- Team Coordination – Regular (bi-monthly) meetings with OWCN
- MWVCRC hosting four visiting pinnipeds while tank maintenance is conducted at partner organization; all care will be provided by partner organization, but excellent training and stress test opportunity for facility and OSPR staff

## **Applied Response Technology and Best Achievable Technology**

- OSPR + Industry Oil Spill Response Technology Workshop – OSPR is working with Marathon, Chevron, Shell, and Phillips 66 for this year's event to be held in Carson, CA May 27 – 30; TAC members invited (virtual and in-person participation is available)
- License applications – ITS surface washing agent, and Matter of Trust hair/fur sorbent under review
- Surface Washing Agent Study – Publication in Marine Pollution Bulletin pending
- Regional Contingency Plan Update – Response Technology Evaluation (RTE) Unit section and supporting materials; reviewing need to address Subpart J changes that may affect dispersant licensing and availability
- RTE/ART/BAT Working Group – Expanded working group to include full time representation by OSPR, USCG, NOAA, USEPA, and OSRO; presented at state-wide Area Committee meeting
- ART Gallery – Developing third edition

## **Fisheries Closure**

- Spill Response – Provided spill response support with OEHHA for multiple incidents with potential fisheries closures
- Supporting Dunsmuir Response assessing fish exclusion strategies for in-river containment area for 2025 operations
- Preparedness – Developing support tool to identify key species and associated fishery data to increase efficiency of spill response statewide; coordinating with OEHHA; supporting PHAU development; coordinating with interested party groups (commercial and recreational fishing orgs)
- Regulatory – The fisheries and seafood safety team continues to discuss optimization of regulatory language regarding timing of closures and enforceability

## **Geographic Information Systems**

- Staffing – Currently operating with four staff instead of six; one position lost, another being backfilled
- Spill and Drill Response - Spatial analysis and mapping during response statewide addressing Common Operating Picture, Situation Unit support, SCAT, spatial analysis, and mapping
- SCATatalogue – Update completed; developing new ESRI platform version (SCATatalogue123) for better interoperability with other digital data collection and presentation tools; currently field testing
- Reconnaissance App Development – Field testing in progress
- ERMA Updates – Continual data additions to ERMA for Common Operating Picture during response
- UAV Program – Licensed pilots for UAV mapping missions

## **Laboratory Response Unit Activities as of March 7, 2025**

### **Sample Analysis (since last report)**

Performed petroleum fingerprinting analysis to support ten different spill investigations and responses.

### **Research**

As part of an ongoing effort to build the Petroleum Chemistry Laboratory (PCL) petroleum library, eight well samples from CRC's Huntington Beach operations were collected and submitted under chain of custody to the PCL. The fingerprinting and biomarker ratio analysis of the samples have been completed, and the final report and presentation are currently in preparation.

The PCL has been quantifying hydrocarbon concentrations in water samples collected from OSPR funded aquatic toxicity tests. These toxicity studies are laboratory exposures of aquatic organisms (freshwater and marine vertebrates and invertebrates) to high energy water accommodated fractions of renewable diesel and petroleum diesel, respectively. Water concentrations from renewable diesel exposures are being analyzed for total hydrocarbon concentrations and water concentrations from petroleum diesel exposures are being analyzed for total hydrocarbons and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These studies will fill data gaps on aquatic effects of renewable diesel.

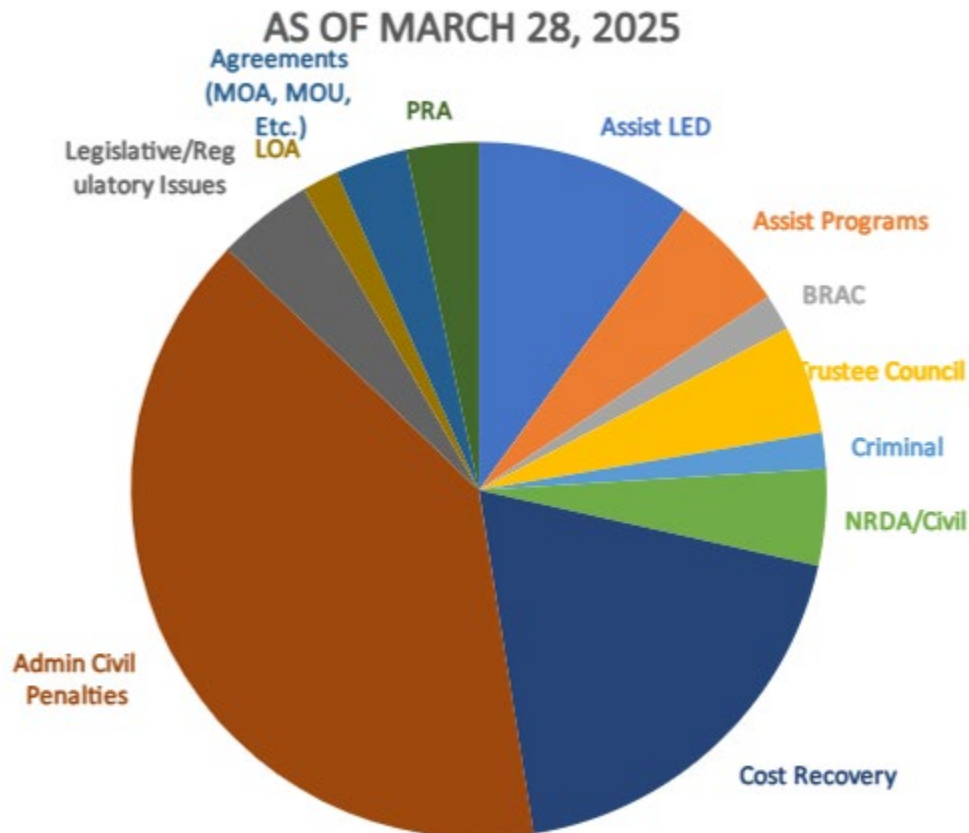


## **Legal Branch**

**March 28, 2025**

### **Overview**

The OSPR Legal Branch is currently handling 63 active cases in addition to the routine legal matters, legal guidance, and counsel provided to the OSPR leadership and other branches. Here is a breakdown of total workload:



### **Notable Legal Workloads**

Some items of note since the last TAC meeting:

#### **Sable Offshore**

OSPR Legal has been supporting program staff with Sable Offshore issues, such as preparation for the community town hall meeting that was held in Santa Barbara a few weeks ago.

OSPR continues to receive Public Records Act requests related to Sable.

### **Pacific Oil Co. and BE Logistics mobile transfer units**

In March 2025, OSPR issued a cease-and-desist order to each of these companies for attempting to conduct over-the-water transfers of oil or oily substance without having a contingency plan and/or a certificate of financial responsibility. OSPR is in communication with one company to assist with compliance. The other company has not responded.

### **Incident Support**

OSPR Legal has been supporting the State On-Scene Commander/Coordinator for documentation issues at two incidents in the Los Angeles area: Olympic Terminals incident and Plains "Alameda & Sepulveda" incident.

### **Regulations Development**

OSPR Legal has been supporting program staff and regulations staff developing sensitive site protection regulation updates, and with an internal work group to overhaul the facility contingency plan regulations.

### **Legislation**

OSPR Legal is supporting staff with the analysis of several bills in the Legislature.

# Preparedness Branch

Website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Preparedness>

## AREA CONTINGENCY AND GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE PLANS

Website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Contingency>

### Geographic Response Plans (GRPs)

#### General Update Information:

Lower American River (Sacramento County) – Final draft being reviewed by the OSPR Executive Team. Should be finalized March 2025.

Klamath River (Siskiyou, Humboldt, Del Norte Counties) – Draft GRP being reviewed by the GRP Subcommittee, including four California Native American Tribes. Salinas River (Monterey County) - Field data collection and document preparation in progress.

San Diego River (San Diego County) - Planning Cycle 3: Beginning stages of reconnaissance and determining the GRP boundary.

Ballona Creek 5-Year Update (Los Angeles County) - This is the first 5-year update for the first planning cycle GRPs developed by OSPR. All updates and reviews are completed. Final document has been uploaded to the OSPR website.

Cajon Pass 5-Year Update (San Bernardino County) - Field work is complete, adding 1 new response site and removing 1 access/observation site. Currently working on document section updates.

Kern River 5-Year Update (Kern County) - Field work to review all existing sites and staging areas began in late December 2024. Field teams have been out on a weekly basis to make progress on site review.

Walker River Update (Mono County) – field teams have completed data collection. Working with the State of Nevada as this will be an interstate plan, looking to create a single document.

Truckee River Update (Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties) - OSPR FRT staff conducted field reconnaissance for the existing Truckee River GRP response strategy sites along with State of Nevada partners and an OSRO in the summer of 2023. OSPR staff and GIS participated in a field reconnaissance day with the State of Nevada (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection) in 2024 to review strategy sites along the Truckee River in Nevada. Additional field visits will be scheduled for the Nevada sections of the Truckee River.

#### OSPR Statewide Internal GRP Workgroup Meetings:

- March 19, 2025
- June 25, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- December 10, 2025

## **GRP Statewide Steering Committee Meetings:**

- Spring 2025

## **Marine Area Contingency Plans (ACP)**

Los Angeles/Long Beach ACPs 4 & 5 have been revised and updated to USCG's new ACP architecture. The plan was also revised to meet ADA Compliant objectives. It has been posted on <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Preparedness/LA-LB-Spill-Contingency-Plan>

ACPs 1, 2, & 3 are currently being revised and updated to USCG's new ACP architecture. The Fish and Wildlife Annex C draft is completed and has been forwarded to the Coast Guard for review. The base plan is still under development by the Coast Guard.

The ACP Coordinator has commenced the development of the Fish and Wildlife Annex C and has initiated coordination meetings with Coast Guard Sector San Diego staff.

OSPR staff continue to work numerous internal workgroups to review and update ACP-related content, including the shoreline protection tables. All the 6 Area Committee meetings are on their typical schedules. Information on these meetings is posted on OSPR's webpage: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Public-Meetings>.

## **Statewide Oil Spill Contingency Plan**

OSPR has released the approved 2023 State Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The plan is updated every three years. The plan is available here: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Contingency>.

OSPR has commenced the 2026 update and has requested review and comment from internal staff and external partners.

## **REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM IX:**

General Information: The Regional Response Team (RRT) conducts virtual and in-person meetings and workshops. These meetings' information is posted on OSPR's webpage (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Public-Meetings>). The RRT meeting took place February 5 & 6 in San Diego. Meeting agenda and presentations can be found [here](#).

## **RESPONSE TRAINING:**

### **General Information:**

The OSPR Response Training Program has seen significant standardization of operations and program expansion since September 2024. In addition to the continuing coordination of formal response trainings, the program has drafted a new Response Training Program Policy, established a Response Training Committee, continued improving training and qualifications tracking and accountability processes, improved access to training resources through the online Response Training Portal and the Subject Matter Expert (SME) Lead Team and Toolbox, expanded and supported the position-specific response training programs led by SM) Leads, and began implementation of the new Internal Preparedness Program.

### Relevant Metrics:

Total visits to Response Training Portal since December 2023 launch: 1,335  
Total visits to Response Training Portal in last 90 days: 229  
Total OSPR staff training hours: 4,845

### **RESPONSE TRAINING COMMITTEE:**

Based on information gathered in the 2023 training survey, the response training team designed and implemented an initial response training plan and centralized training budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. As a continuation of this effort, the Response Training Program launched the OSPR Response Training Committee in December 2024 with the goal of developing OSPR's first Annual Response Training Plan and Budget. The committee is comprised of 16 OSPR staff members who cumulatively represent all 225 OSPR staff in each branch, specialty, and response role. The OSPR Training Coordinator has led two Response Training Committee meetings to date, one in December 2024 and a second in January 2025. Currently, the committee is developing a comprehensive list of response trainings based on perceived staff need. Priority trainings will be identified from that list and added to the proposed 2025/2026 Annual Response Training Plan. Once approved, the 2025/2026 Annual Response Training Plan and Budget will be implemented in July 2025.

### **RESPONSE TRAINING:**

The Response Training Program has an extensive list of response trainings planned for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. The following trainings were coordinated and executed between September 2024 and February 2025:

Sampling Training
Adult First Aid/CPR/AED
New Employee Response Training Orientations

The following is a list of planned trainings for the remainder of the fiscal year, funded by the initial response training budget:

ICS 342 (Documentation Unit Leader)	16 Hour HAZWOPER
ICS 320 (Intermediate Incident Management Team)	Environmental Response to Oil Spills (EROS)
All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Training	Offroad Safety Training
Adult First Aid/CPR/AED	ICS 400 (Advanced ICS – Complex Incidents)

### Relevant Metrics:

Total new employee response training orientations: 3  
Number of response trainings implemented: 3

## **RESPONSE TRAINING TRACKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

The OSPR Response Training Program has effectively tracked task books (TB) using LEARN since January of 2024. Since the migration of OSPR's task books to LEARN, the Response Training Program has been able to track increased task book initiation and completion for spill response roles. In large part, this increase can be attributed to the efforts of the Position Specific Response Training Program, outlined below. The Response Training Program is also implementing its first annual update cycle for OSPR task books, ensuring task books stay current with the needs of the organization.

### Relevant Metrics:

Number of TBs initiated in LEARN: 203

Number of completed TBs: 122

% total TBs completed: 52%

Number of qualified OSPR staff for spill response roles: 51

## **POSITION SPECIFIC RESPONSE TRAINING PROGRAM**

The goal of this effort is to initiate and implement a position specific training program by June 2025, that is fully functioning and self-sufficiently run by the position specific Subject Matter Expert (SME) Leads. The SME Leads are the "trainers" for each of their respective ICS Response Programs. The program approach is designed to ensure that all OSPR staff assigned to ICS spill response roles are qualified to serve in those roles, that training and task book certification is overseen by the SME Leads, and that the program documentation, efficiency and effectiveness is monitored by the Response Training Program. The first step in the program, which was largely implemented from July 2024 through February 2025, was to train and empower the SME Leads to build, lead, and maintain their own position specific programs.

In addition to group trainings, the Response Training Unit has held a series of three separate meetings with each of the SME Leads. The first meeting determined individual training needs and needed training programs throughout OSPR. These meetings resulted in a project timeline and approved scope of work. The second meeting identified current staffing assigned, any staffing shortfalls for a type 1 scenario, any specific unique programmatic needs or concerns, a timeline to complete task books and historical recognition documents and covered initial outreach efforts for the internal exercises program. The third meetings focused on SME Lead programs that had functioned in the past but needed revisions and updating.

### Relevant Metrics

*Number of group SME Lead trainings conducted by Response Training Program:*

- 1 facilitation training
- 3 quarterly meetings

*Attendance at those trainings:*

- Facilitation Training: 96% attendance (23 or 24 SME Leads)
- Q1 Meeting: 96% attendance (23 or 24 SME Leads)
- Q2 Meeting: 100% attendance
- Q3 Meeting: 96% attendance (23 or 24 SME Leads)

*Focused individual meetings with SME leads:*

- 53 in total

*Number of independent position-specific response training programs (2023 vs 2024) - % increase*

- 2023: 6 training programs
- 2024: 24 training programs planned - Increase of 400%

*Number of qualified SME leads running training programs:*

- 21 of 24 (88%)
- The remaining 3 are expected to be signed off within 12 months.

*Meetings and participation in position specific programs (1/25-3/25):*

- Number of SME leads holding their own trainings: 6 (LOFR, VOLU, DOCL, SCAT, LABS, and Tribal/CHRRARC)
- Total number of staff participating: 42
- Total training hours: 62

## **INTERNAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**

The goal of the Internal Preparedness Coordinator (IPC) is to coordinate opportunities for OSPR staff to train and gain proficiency in the response roles they would fill during a spill response through the facilitation of internal exercises. The IPC also coordinates with the OSPR Drills and Exercises Unit to identify additional training opportunities within industry exercises for OSPR staff that fall outside of the mandatory industry objectives outlined in regulation.

From October-December 2024, the IPC met with SME leads to identify which position-specific groups they would need to exercise with to address response competencies outlined in their task books. In January, the IPC took the lead in designing an internal exercise for OSPR SME Leads to further develop the understanding of interconnectivity between all the ICS response roles that OSPR staffs. The exercise was a discussion-based tabletop format and covered the initial response activities for each position. In February, the IPC coordinated with the Drills and Exercises Unit to identify additional billets for OSPR staff to fill and participate in a Tier I industry tabletop exercise. Positions filled during the industry exercise included:

SCAT Coordinator  
Documentation Unit Leader  
ART Technical Specialist  
Fisheries Closure Technical Specialist  
Legal Officer

The IPC is currently leading planning for two internal exercises over the course of the next four months. The first will be held April 22, 2025, and will focus on SCAT positions, primarily SCAT Coordinator. The second will be held June 2, 2025, and will focus on the Wildlife Branch.

### Relevant Metrics

Number of participants in SME Lead internal exercise: 41  
Number of additional participants in industry exercise: 7  
Number of internal exercises planned for Fiscal Year 24/25: 2

## **DRILLS AND EXERCISES UNIT (D&E)**

**Website:** <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Drills-Exercises>

**General Information:** The Drills and Exercises Unit (D&E) has been preparing for its first year with mandatory objectives (beyond Notifications and Staff Mobilization) with Section 820.1, including providing plan holders with courtesy emails regarding these objectives. D&E has also been

developing plans, timelines, and supporting documentation to initiate its OSPR Initiated Event (OSPRI) program and audit Additional Notifications required by 14 CCR § 8201 (b).

D&E had the opportunity to coordinate a Chevron representative's guest observation at a recent Union Pacific Railroad annual exercise. This provided Chevron with an educational opportunity to help inform their planning for their upcoming annual exercise. D&E participated in planning and evaluation of a large-scale, two-day CalTriVEX for Gallagher Marine Systems February. D&E is continuing to work towards filling the vacancy in the northern region.

## **September 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025**

### **Total Drills and Exercises Statewide**

- Total Drills and Exercises: 76
- Total Equipment Deployment Drills: 5
- Total Tabletop Exercises: 71
  - Total CalTriVEX: 1

### **Total Drills and Exercises in Northern California**

- Total Drills and Exercises: 25
- Total Equipment Deployment Drills: 2
- Total Tabletop Exercises: 23
  - Total CalTriVEX: 0

### **Total Drills and Exercises in Central California**

- Total Drills and Exercises: 16
- Total Equipment Deployment Drills: 0
- Total Tabletop Exercises: 16
  - Total CalTriVEX: 0

### **Total Drills and Exercises in Southern California**

- Total Drills and Exercises: 35
- Total Equipment Deployment Drills: 3
- Total Tabletop Exercises: 32
  - Total CalTriVEX: 1

## **Response Certification and Planning Unit (RCPU)**

### **Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSRO) Program**

Website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/RCPU>

**General Information:** The OSRO website includes lists of Marine, Terrestrial, and Inland On-water rated OSROs as well as their contact information.

#### **Current OSROs by rating type:**

- Marine: 9
- Inland On-water: 8
- Terrestrial: 21

### **OSRO Drills conducted September 2024 – February 2025**

- Marine – Passed: 1
- Marine – Failed: 0
- Marine – Modified: 0



- Inland On-water – Passed: 3
- Inland On-water – Failed: 0
- Inland On-water – Modified: 0
- Terrestrial – Passed: 1
- Terrestrial – Failed: 0
- Terrestrial – Modified: 0

## **Industry Oil Spill Contingency Plans:**

Website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/RCPU/Vessel-Contingency-Plan-Program>

### **Current Approved Oil Spill Contingency Plans:**

- Vessels: 1198
- Facilities: 109

### **Vessel Contingency Plans Processed September 2024 – February 2025**

- Approved New Plans: 83
- Approved Resubmitted Plans: 44
- Vessel Revisions: 2007
- Withdrawn Vessel Plans: 66

### **Facility Plans Processed September 2024-February 2025**

- Marine Plan Approvals: 5
- Marine Revisions: 8
- Inland Approvals: 0
- Inland Revisions: 0
- Inland Exemptions: 3
- Withdrawn: 7

## **Spill Management Team (SMT) Program**

Website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/RCPU/Spill-Management-Teams>

The SMT program established a two-phase certification process to allow SMTs to obtain rigorous training and complete a certification exercise. SMTs are issued an interim certification after filing a complete application and training plan, and full certification is issued after the successful completion of the training and certification exercise requirements.

The SMT program conducted two certification exercises from September 2024 through February 2025; one of these was the first certification exercise for renewal of full certification. Most interim certifications were issued in 2022 and expire at the end of 2025, so certification exercises will ramp up in 2025. SMTs must apply for certification renewal three years after receiving a full certification.

- SMT Certification Exercises Conducted September 2024 – February 2025: 2
- SMT Certification Exercises Scheduled March - December 2025: 17

### **SMT Certification Status:**

- Plan Holder SMTs:
  - Interim Certification: 34
  - Full Certification: 6
- External SMTs:
  - Interim Certification: 13
  - Full Certification: 6

## Certificates of Financial Responsibility (COFR) Unit

Website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Financial-Responsibility>

**General Information:** Facilities staff continue to coordinate with the Contingency Plan unit to ensure accuracy and consistency of data between respective databases. COFR Vessel staff began P&I season on January 28. Between January 28 and April 6, the COFR unit receives 7,000+ P&I insurance documents to review and update in database. Received results from last years' DOF audit of the non-tank vessel fee process. No findings were reported.

Vessel and Facility COFR Certificates Issued September 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025:

Total COFRs issued: 2296

- Tank Vessels:
  - New: 313
  - Renewal: 613
- Non-Tank Vessels:
  - New: 557
  - Renewal: 435
- Facilities:
  - New: 88
  - Renewal: 290

## PREVENTION BRANCH

Personnel update: The open position in the Central field office has been filled by Oil Spill Prevention Specialist Justin Sayegh who was previously employed in the spill management (SMT) industry, and prior to that, he had a career in the United States Coast Guard as a marine safety technician. Justin will bring a wealth of knowledge to our existing program. All other positions at this time are filled. For the southern field office, the current field supervisor, Dennis Chastain, will be retiring mid-summer from State service. He has been a great leader for our field staff and we wish him the best going forward. Looking forward, we have been working on updating the Prevention Branch website to provide a more interactive and informative page for our program. We are also in the process of modernizing the ship arrival process and the bunkering notification process to better collect data for understanding the changing landscape of fuel and lubes being loaded onto ships while in port.

### Statistics:

#### October 2024 thru December 31, 2024

Vessel Arrivals: **2,346**

Category 1 – 4 Risk Boardings: **0**

Oil/Fuel Transfer Notifications: **1534**

Oil/Fuel Transfer Monitors: **49**

Percent of Transfers Monitored: **3.19%**

Facility Contingency Plan Verifications: **10**

Facility Contingency Plan Exemptions: **4**

Marine Outreach: **41**

Inland Outreach: **24**

Marine Oil Spill Incidents: **152**

Inland Oil Spill Incidents: **153**

Vessel Compliance Checks: **79**

Drills attended: **37**

OSRO/GIUE Drills attended: **7**

Number of grant trailer refresher trainings: **4**

#### January 2025 thru March 26, 2025

Vessel Arrivals: **1,952**

Category 1 – 4 Risk Boardings: **3**

Oil/Fuel Transfer Notifications: **1488**

Oil/Fuel Transfer Monitors: **40**

Percent of Transfers Monitored: **2.68%**

Facility Contingency Plan Verifications: **10**

Facility Contingency Plan Exemptions: **1**

Marine Outreach: **61**

Inland Outreach: **29**

Marine Oil Spill Incidents: **138**

Inland Oil Spill Incidents: **109**

Vessel Compliance Checks: **102**

Drills attended: **8**

OSRO/GIUE Drills attended: **3**

Number of grant trailer refresher trainings: **2**

## **Public Affairs:**

The OSPR Public Affairs Unit continues its work to keep the public and media updated as to program activities and daily spill responses. The unit provides support to Unified Command (UC) responses statewide, including recent incidents in Los Angeles County, one of which impacted the Dominguez Channel. The unit remains engaged in the Dunsmuir Railyard response in Siskiyou County, where a joint agency UC continues to oversee a project to remove historical oil that impacted the Upper Sacramento River.

Public Affairs has also continued to monitor daily operations updates and works with LED personnel to post updates with photos to OSPR social media channels when warranted. Program activities posted on social media include equipment trailer delivery and refresher trainings.

The unit edits and publishes OSPR's monthly internal newsletter, the OSPR Insider. The unit has also redesigned, and now maintains, OSPR's organizational chart.

OSPR's Public Information Officers have continued to support the Drills and Exercises Unit, with remote and in-person participation in drills with our industry partners.

The unit has begun building the curriculum for field responder media training, with initial offering planned for Winter 2025-26.

The unit is also working to expand OSPR's presence on YouTube, with regular videos showcasing staff and programs throughout the state.

## **RESOURCE RESTORATION BRANCH**

### ***April 2025 TAC Update***

The Resource Restoration Branch (RRB) includes the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) Program, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Unit, and the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) Unit. These functions are a critical component of OSPR's mission " ... to provide best achievable protection of California's natural resources by preventing, preparing for, and responding to spills of oil and restoring affected resources." To date, OSPR, together with our other federal and state natural resource trustees, have raised more than \$220 million dollars for restoration following large spills of oil and other hazardous substances and \$8 million dollars for smaller spills assessed by OSPR alone.

**Personnel Update.** A request to refill an open Senior Environmental Scientist position within the RRB NRDA Unit is pending until further notice. The branch currently consists of an Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisor), a Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor), three Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialists), an Environmental Scientist, a Resource Economist, and two Staff Toxicologists.

### **Environmental Enhancement Fund.**

Fund Balance: \$500,000 (approximate – fund balance revision due May 2025). To date, over \$11.8 million has been awarded to various grant recipients in California. In November 2024, EEF awarded \$7.5 million in grants to 8 different restoration projects located throughout California. These projects are expected to begin in late Spring 2025.

#### **Currently Funded Restoration Projects:**

1. River Health Days: Community-Based Habitat Enhancement of the Lower San Lorenzo River, Santa Cruz County
2. Restoring Critical Habitat and Increasing Climate Resiliency in a Northern California Dune System, Humboldt County
3. Little River State Beach Nearshore Dune Habitat and Coastal Resilience Project, Humboldt County
4. Lower Hoke Meadow Restoration, Nevada County
5. Kelp Forest Restoration at Timber Cove in Greater Farallon's National Marine Sanctuary, Sonoma County
6. Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta, Contra Costa County
7. Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove, Mendocino County
8. Restoring High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park, Tuolumne County

9. Elk Creek/Eden Valley Sediment Source Assessment – Eel River Watershed, Mendocino County
10. Enhancing Dune Habitat and Ecosystem Function at Northern Monterey County State Parks, Monterey County
11. Riparian Restoration at the TNC Prairie Pacific Property, Santa Paula, Ventura County
12. Pismo State Beach Foredune Restoration and Improvement Project, San Luis Obispo County
13. Shaahnaa' Lhook' Land Back for Acquisition of Fee Interest, Mendocino County
14. Upper Tryon Creek Habitat Restoration – Phase 1, Del Norte County
15. Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Tidal Wetland Restoration Project, Alameda County
16. Restoration of Sausal Creek Headwaters, Alameda County
17. Restoration Ecosystem Health and Resilience at Anacapa Island, Channel Islands National Park, Ventura County

#### **Small Spills Habitat Restoration Fund.**

*Fund Balance: \$4,316,028 (as of March 1, 2025).*

#### *Currently Funded Restoration Projects:*

1. *Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project, El Dorado County*
2. *Black Lake Habitat Restoration for Recovery of Federally Listed Species, San Luis Obispo County*
3. *Fisher Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration Project – Phase II, Santa Clara County*
4. *GRRCD PIT Antenna Operations and Maintenance, Sonoma County*
5. *Riparian Habitat Restoration at Santa Clara River, Santa Barbara County*
6. *Bluff Lake Reserve Wet Meadow Restoration, Revegetation and Monitoring Project, San Bernardino County*
7. *Rare Species Habitat Restoration Project, Los Angeles County*
8. *Basso/La Grange Reach Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 1 – Implementation, Stanislaus County (in contracting)*

#### *Five restoration projects were completed this year:*

1. *Iron Horse Fish Screen Implementation Project, Sonoma County*
2. *Restoring a Rare Freshwater Seep in Support of the Federally Endangered Marsh Sandwort, Santa Barbara County*
3. *2024 Walnut Creek Watershed Arundo Removal Project, Contra Costa County*

4. *Ecological Restoration of the Prince Barranca, Ventura County*
5. *Wetland Habitat Restoration Within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge*

**NRDA Case Report.** Since September 2024, two cases have been settled and three remain in progress:

**Settled Cases:**

**Naval Base Ventura Co (Point Mugu) Oil Spill.** Responsible Party: Omega Air. OSPR played a key role in assessing the damages caused by a fuel tanker plane crash in the Point Mugu wetlands in 2011. In October 2024, the National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC) adjudicated a claim for damages caused by the spill that was presented by the resource Trustees, including the U.S. Department of the Navy, OSPR, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) in 2021. The NPFC offered \$1,116,427.93 to cover past costs and initiate restoration at Point Mugu as follows:

- \$17,669.08 in past assessment costs incurred by the DOI;
- \$87,065.99 for past assessment costs incurred by OSPR;
- \$356,922.05 for a project to remove large debris from an impacted Point Mugu wetland;
- \$211,372.56 for a project to revegetate an upland wetland buffer;
- \$93,460.08 for a project to eradicate the invasive European Sea Lavender on base property;
- \$231,217.78 for restoration project monitoring; and
- \$118,720.39 for project oversight.

**Pine Incident.** Responsible Party: Shasta-Siskiyou Transport

- \$47,899 for natural resource damages, deposited into OSPR Small Spills Habitat Restoration Account.

**Cases in Progress:**

Tanzanite Park Pond (Sacramento County); and

Assisting CDFW Region on Clover Flat Landfill (Napa County).

**Large Spill NRDA Assessments.**

**Pipeline P00547 NRDA.** Immediately following the October 2, 2021 report of a spill from Pipeline P00547, members of the OSPR Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Unit began pulling together a multi-trustee agency team and deploying staff in the field to pre-assess natural resource injuries arising from the spill. The natural resource trustees (Trustee Team) for the spill include the following state trustees: OSPR, State Lands, and Parks

and Recreation; and the following federal trustees: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service (representing the DOI), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This past year, the Trustee Team published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register ([here](#)) that the Trustees intend to proceed with Restoration Planning for the spill (i.e., proceed to pursue natural resource damages caused by the spill). The Trustee Team also presented to the public on the status of the assessment and solicited the public's input on potential restoration projects that compensate for resource injuries caused by the spill. Copies of those presentations can be found [here](#). Beginning and since July 2023, the Trustee Team has held seven meetings with the Responsible Party (Amplify Energy Corp.) to settle resource damages caused by the spill. Updates on NRDA activities and findings will continue to be posted on OSPR's Restoration/NRDA webpage at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/Pipeline-P00547>.

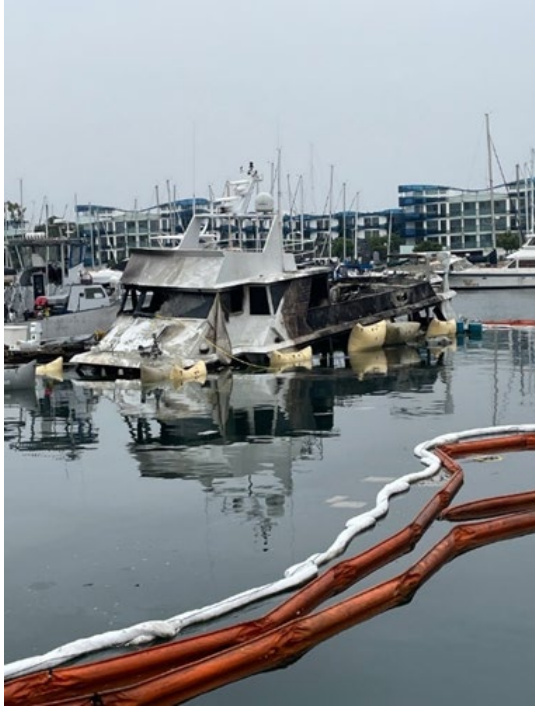
**Large Spill Trustee Councils or State-Lead Restoration.** OSPR is a state-trustee lead member on eleven (11) ongoing large spill Trustee Councils overseeing restoration dollars that benefit birds, mammals, fish and their habitats injured by spills. Please see: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/Large-Cases-Restoration> for further details. Final restoration reports prepared by the Kinder Morgan Oil Spill Trustee Council and the Castro Cove Trustee Council were recently completed and posted on the CDFW-NRDA webpages here: [Kinder Morgan](#) & [Castro Cove](#).



## OSPR LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCH

### Report to the Technical Advisory Committee April 10, 2025

October / November 2024



24-5289: Diesel, M/V “The Admiral,” Marina Del Rey, Los Angeles County. SFRT responded to a 105’ private yacht fire that resulted in the sinking of the vessel. A unified command was established and cleanup operations conducted. A marine salvage company recovered the vessel. USCG inspected the recovered vessel and confirmed there was no remaining threat of pollution. Investigation into the cause of the incident and the volume discharged remains ongoing.



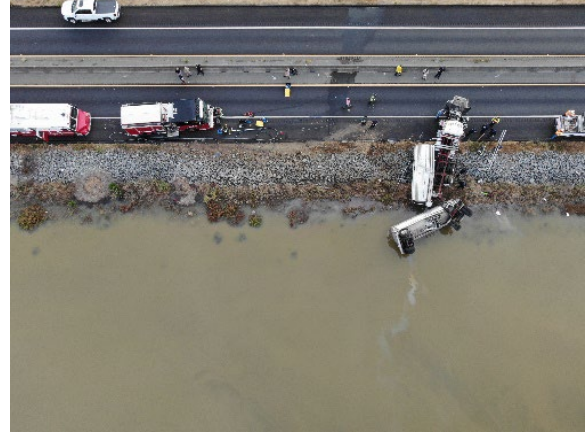
24-5794: Diesel, Fort Bragg, Mendocino County – A 24’ fishing vessel sank at Noyo Harbor. NFRT members coordinated the response and contracted NRC to re-float and remove the hazmat from the vessel. All hazmat was removed from the “TERESA MARIE” and the vessel was successfully removed from the water.



24-5988: Aviation fuel, Markleeville, Alpine County – A fisherman landed his helicopter on a remote embankment of the Carson River. The helicopter inadvertently slid down into the river resulting in the potential release of 30 gallons of aviation fuel. NFRT members coordinated a response and conducted an overflight of the incident with air services and USFS. NFRT members ultimately accessed the site via ATV, hiking, and drone surveillance. No sheen or odor was observed, and no water or wildlife was impacted. The helicopter was eventually recovered with approximately 10 gallons of aviation fuel onboard.







24-6054: Gasoline, Vallejo, Solano County – A vehicle collision involving a tanker truck resulted in the release of 350 gallons of gasoline in the Cullinan Ranch Restoration Area. NFRT members coordinated a response and an OSRO was contracted for cleanup operations. OWCN was notified and no wildlife impacts were observed. Approximately 13 ounces of gasoline were recovered from the water and 349 gallons of gasoline was lost to the environment. Most of the gasoline spilled onto the rip rap and dirt on the shoulder of Highway 37.



24-6182: Diesel, Lakehead, Shasta County – A vehicle collision involving a tractor-trailer occurred on the Antlers Bridge over Lake Shasta. This resulted in the release of approximately 100 gallons of diesel fuel onto the center median of the highway. NFRT members responded and confirmed there was no sheen on the lake and no impacted wildlife.



24-6401: Slop oil, Richmond, Contra Costa County – A valve failure at the Chevron Refinery caused the release of slop oil onto the wharf and into the San Francisco Bay. Chevron crews deployed boom and MSRC was activated for cleanup. NFRT members responded to the incident. A Unified Command was established with OSPR, USCG, and the responsible party. The OWCN was notified, and no fishery closures were recommended. No visible sheen was found.



24-6468: Oil, Fellows, Kern County – An operator for Bry Petroleum reported an old surface expression that has released approximately 14 barrels of oil on the surface of the ground. CFRT members responded and observed impacted wildlife. OWCN was notified. An incident command was established, and an OSRO was contracted for cleanup operations. Approximately 15 barrels of oil were recovered during cleanup operations. Cleanup operations are ongoing.



**December 2024 / January 2025**



24-6952: Hydraulic fluid, Ventura, Ventura County – SFRT members responded to a report of a commercial squid vessel running into the sea wall upon its return to port. SFRT members and USCG inspected the vessel to assess the damage. A non-recoverable sheen (hydraulic fluid) was present around the vessel. No wildlife impacts were observed. SFRT members confirmed no sensitive sites were threatened. A marine salvage company eventually recovered the vessel.



24-7154: Santa Cruz Harbor, Santa Cruz County – Due to larger than normal swells entering the marina, numerous boats have sunk, capsized, and are listing. Some of the docks have given way. NFRT members observed a total of 11 vessels all under 27 feet capsized. NFRT members observed small sporadic pockets of silver sheen in the North Harbor. NFRT members met with the Harbormasters office regarding debris removal and conducted additional vessel assessments. No wildlife impacts have been observed. The Harbormaster coordinated cleanup operations. No observed or reported sheen on the water.

**February/ March 2025**



25-0495: Diesel, Emigrant Gap, Placer County – NFRT members contacted Union Pacific Railroad in response to the reported release of 1,500 gallons of diesel from a locomotive near Emigrant Gap. NFRT coordinated a response with the on-scene Hazmat Coordinator and reported that the release was due to a boulder striking the fuel tank of the lead locomotive. The release was contained between the rail lines. Absorbent boom was placed in a nearby culvert as a precaution. An OSRO was contracted to conduct the cleanup. No state waters were impacted.



25-0767: Jet fuel, Richvale, Butte County – NFRT members responded to a report of a fuel tanker carrying 450 gallons of Jet A Fuel and 400 gallons of water overturning, releasing its contents. The fuel and water leaked into a six-inch-deep ditch on the side of the road. NFRT concluded that the ditch was not hydrologically connected to state waters and Butte County Environmental Health coordinated the cleanup. No wildlife impacts were observed, and no state waters were impacted.





25-0934: Diesel, El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County – A vehicle collision involving a semi-truck resulted in the release of 30-70 gallons of diesel into a small drainage canal leading to Folsom Lake. NFRT members responded and met with the trucking company representative on site. There were several areas of standing diesel fuel in the stream, and approximately 150 yards of impacted creek bed. There was no evidence that the spill was approaching or had reached Folsom Lake. No impacted wildlife observed. Cleanup operations were conducted by the RP under the guidance of the NFRT.





25-1115: Oil, Bakerfield, Kern County- CFRT members received a report of an unreported pipeline/well leak near the Kern River. CFRT members responded to the incident and reported that a pipeline had been leaking for an unknown amount of time. The crude oil and produced water eventually spilled across a roadway and into several drainage canals. Multiple clean up contractors were on site and mitigating the spill path before it could reach the Kern River. A blue line creek/bed was impacted, but several berms were in place to prevent the oil from moving further downstream. The cause of the spill was a large crack in the pipeline, which has been repaired.





25-1252: Oil, Long Beach, Los Angeles County – SFRT members responded to a report of an underground petroleum transmission pipeline leak. The product made it into the storm drain and Long Beach harbor. NRC placed containment boom and plugged the storm drain. SFRT members contacted the responsible party, who isolated and stopped use of the broken transmission line. An OSRO was contracted for cleanup operations, and SFRT will continue to monitor the situation.

Olympus Terminal and CDFW OSPR SFRT formalized a Unified Command with

Gallagher Marine acting as the spill management team. There has been no loss of containment or further release. OWCN has been notified and assisted in hazing operations. LA Regional Water Control Board staff visited the ICP and clean-up site and will be working with the responsible party on the pipeline restoration, subterranean mitigation, and land backfill portions of this incident. There were no new reports of injuries, impacted wildlife, or changes in media or VIP interest. Clean up operations have been completed.



25-1319: Oil, Carson, Los Angeles County – SFRT members responded to the report of an ongoing, uncontained release from the Texico Oil Refinery impacting the surface streets and the storm drain system, which lead to the Dominguez Channel. SFRT members worked through the night with multiple OSRO's, LA County Hazmat, and LA County Fire to secure and contain the release. Containment boom was placed across the Dominguez Channel, but no product was reported entering the waterway.

Continuous boom has been deployed and maintained across the Dominguez Channel as precautionary containment. Plains All American Pipeline located the line failure on their line. A Unified Command was setup with CDFW OSPR SFRT and Plains All American with Gallagher Marine as the spill management team. No product has been observed in the Dominguez Channel and there has been no report of oiled wildlife.



US EPA has joined the UC. Ops tactics include building a sandbag dam around the Dominguez Channel outfall. The Baelena skimmer will be placed inside the storm drain catch basin to skim off oil to mitigate contamination in Dominguez Channel. Approximately 2,522 gallons of crude oil, 134,447 gallons of water-oil mix, and more than 280 cubic yards of oiled debris have been recovered from the storm drain system.

25-1327: Oil, Taft, Kern County – CFRT members responded to the reported release from a Chevron oil well. The release impacted the soil surrounding the well and flowed into a dry stream bed. CFRT members surveyed the area for oiled wildlife. CFRT will continue to monitor the situation.

CFRT members reported that Chevron has contracted two OSROs for cleanup operations. They estimate 25 barrels of oil and 99.7 barrels of produced water were released with approximately 17.5 barrels of oil and 70 barrels of produced water impacting the dry creek bed. CFRT members are onsite for continuous monitoring. Five dead oiled kangaroo rats have been recovered.

US EPA toured the response and has been injected into the Unified Command.



**Personnel:** As of April 1st, OSPR's Law Enforcement Branch has four statewide vacancies. We will attempt to fill these vacancies through transfers, promotions, and academy cadets.

## **LIAISON UNIT**

OSPR's Liaison Unit is tasked with serving as the incident Liaison Officer, Tribal Coordinator, and Volunteer Unit Leader during spill responses, training OSPR's Liaison and Volunteer Unit Corps, managing response equipment and preparedness grants, and maintaining relationships with OSPR's response partners, agencies, elected officials, California Native American Tribes, and NGOs.

From September 2024 to March 2025, the Liaison Corps was activated for 4 incident responses and participated in 19 exercises, while the Volunteer Unit Corps attended 8 exercises. The Unit also facilitated the below outreach events, grants for California Native American Tribes grants, and local government grants.

### **Outreach Events**

In addition to attending ACP and RRT meetings, OSPR's Liaison Unit and relevant subject matter experts travel statewide to meet with local, state, and federal agencies as well as California Native American Tribes and NGOs to share information on California's oil spill response structure, spill notification requirements, outreach during spill response, oil spill prevention, and available grants. The Unit also attends Sensitive Site Strategy Evaluation Program (SSSEP) deployments hosted by OSPR's Environmental Response Branch staff to engage with various interested parties.

Events from September 2024 to March 2025 include:

- California Native American Heritage Day – CDFW/OSPR Booth
- Marin County OSPR Overview
- San Luis Rey River SSSEP Equipment Deployment Drill
- Santa Clara River Estuary SSSEP Equipment Deployment Drill
- San Jose Creek SSSEP Equipment Deployment Drill
- Yurok Tribe Boom Refresher Training
- City of Newport Marina Boom Refresher Training
- San Bernardino Fire Boom Refresher Training
- City of South San Francisco Fire Department Boom Refresher Training

### **CA Native American Tribes Response Equipment and Preparedness Grants**

OSPR provides funding to California Native American Tribes to purchase oil spill response equipment as well as host HAZWOPER Training, participate in exercises and ACP/GRP meetings, and other spill response planning efforts.

California Native American Tribes were awarded grants for FY24/25 and received reimbursements for the following activities during the period from September 2024 to March 2025:

- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians; 24-hour HAZWOPER Training
- Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe - Response Equipment Grant Program (program review)
- Shingle Springs Band of the Miwok Indians; 24-hour HAZWOPER Training
- Chevron Eureka Exercise; Coordinated exercise objectives with the Wiyot Tribe

- Tribal Engagement During Oil Spills Workshop; various planning meetings with USCG – First Workshop scheduled for May 1, 2025 with Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok, and Wiyot tribes

### **Local Government Response Equipment and Area Contingency Planning Grants**

OSPR provides funding to cities, counties, and special districts for the acquisition of oil spill response equipment. Additionally, the Local Government Grant Program provides grants to counties that have jurisdiction over or directly adjacent to state waters to complete, update, or revise a county-wide oil spill contingency plan. The grant also includes funding for ACP meetings, OSPR Overviews, and oil spill response related trainings.

From September 2024 to March 2025, OSPR awarded \$47,500 in local-government grants to the following recipients:

- Alameda County Fire Department: \$12,500
- City and County of San Francisco Department of Emergency Management: \$5,000
- Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services: \$10,000
- San Mateo County Department of Emergency Services: \$10,000
- County of Sonoma Permit and Resource Management Department, Fire Prevention and Hazardous Materials Division: \$10,000

**OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (OSPR)**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

Link used: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or Dial-In number: 1 (916) 535-0984, Conference ID: 623949336#

California Poppy Room, 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605

Public comments were accepted via the chat function.

The following were in attendance:

**TAC Members:**

Matt Rezvani (Chair), Janell Myhre (Vice Chair), John Berge, Sejal Choksi-Chugh, James Farner, Rue Furch, Ed Harmon, Lynn Korwatch, Kathleen Rogers, Mike Young

**Recording Secretary:**

Brenda Brantley

**OSPR Participants:**

Heather Geldart – Administrator, Julie Yamamoto – Deputy Administrator, Amir Sharifi – Assistant Deputy Administrator, Eric Milstein – Assistant Chief Counsel, Lenore Phelps – FASB Branch Chief, Kathleen Jennings – Environmental Response Branch Chief, David Reinhard – Preparedness Branch Chief, Jon Victoria – Prevention Branch Chief, Christine Kluge – Regulations Analyst, Greg McGowan – Spill Response Technology Program Manager

**I. Introductions**

Julie Yamamoto – Introduced new OSPR Administrator, Heather Geldart  
TAC Members/Agency Representatives/OSPR Staff present

**II. OSPR Update**

Kathleen Jennings – Overview of Environmental Response Branch, roles and responsibilities  
David Reinhard – Goal of Harmonization of Marine and Inland Facility Contingency Plans  
Jon Victoria – Central Valley Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Operations  
Heather Geldart – Professional background, personal history, and first impressions

Written OSPR programmatic updates can be found in the [TAC Binder](#).

**III. Agency Briefings**

- A. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission – Unavailable for briefing
- B. California Coastal Commission – Jonathan Bishop
- C. California State Lands Commission – Jennifer Lucchesi
- D. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection – James Hosler
- E. California Geologic Energy Management Division – Doug Ito
- F. State Water Resources Control Board – Mark Bare
- G. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Unavailable for briefing
- H. US Coast Guard – Trevor Siperek
- I. US Environmental Protection Agency – Katherine Lawrence

#### **IV. Approval of minutes**

Matt Rezvani, TAC Chair

**Action Item:** Correction to minutes; motion to approve the corrected TAC minutes of April 10, 2024; motion seconded; roll call vote taken; motion approved.

#### **LUNCH**

#### **V. OSPR and State Lands Budget Updates**

Amir Sharifi – OSPR

Jennifer Lucchesi – California State Lands Commission

#### **VI. Regulatory and Legislative Update**

Christine Kluge – OSPR

#### **VII. OSPR Spill Response Applications Presentation**

Greg McGowan – OSPR Custom Field Data Collection Applications, various types of applications and uses for better planning and response

#### **VIII. Biennial Update Discussion**

- Discussed using similar formatting for both the Accomplishments section and the Priority section
- Discussed current content and how to submit additional content for inclusion
- New TAC Member assignments:
  - Accomplishment section – Janell Myhre and Ed Harmon
  - Priority section – Matt Rezvani and Kathleen Rogers

#### **IX. Next Meeting**

Matt Rezvani – TAC Chair

The next TAC meeting to be set up for November 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Adjourn Meeting**

---

<sup>1</sup> Meeting room(s) unavailable for November 6, 2024. Doodle Poll sent out for availability of TAC members. Next meeting to be determined after receiving results from Doodle Poll.

**OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (OSPR)**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 11:06 a.m.

Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

Link used: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or Dial-In number: 1 916-535-0984, Conference ID: 447046347#

California Poppy Room, 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605

Public comments were accepted via the chat function.

The following were in attendance:

**TAC Members:**

Matt Rezvani (Chair), Janell Myhre (Vice Chair), John Berge, Edward Harmon, Kathleen Rogers, Peter Santillan

**Recording Secretary:**

Brenda Brantley

**OSPR Participants:**

Heather Geldart – Administrator, Julie Yamamoto – Deputy Administrator, Amir Sharifi – Assistant Deputy Administrator, Eric Milstein – Assistant Chief Counsel

*This was a TAC Workgroup meeting for members to review and work on the 2023-2024 Biennial Report to the Legislature.*

**I. 2023-2024 Biennial Report**

Discussed two documents, one submitted by the Accomplishment subcommittee and one submitted by the Priorities subcommittee, and suggestions by Agency. More revisions to be made to the document(s) by the subcommittee(s), so further discussions were tabled until the next Biennial TAC meeting in January 2025.

**II. Next Meeting**

Matt Rezvani – TAC Chair

The next Biennial TAC meeting is to be set up for January 2025, the exact date to be determined by the results from a Doodle Poll.

**Adjourn Meeting**



**OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (OSPR)**  
**OIL SPILL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

Friday, January 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 1:12 p.m.

Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

Link used: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or Dial-In number: 1 916-535-0984, Conference ID: 712016020#

Garibaldi Conference Room, 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605

Public comments were accepted via the chat function.

The following were in attendance:

**TAC Member and OSPR Participants:**

- **Attended In Person:** Matt Rezvani (Chair), Rue Furch, Edward Harmon, Julie Yamamoto (Deputy Administrator), Nicole Gleason (Acting Assistant Chief Counsel)
- **Attended Remotely:** Janell Myhre (Vice Chair), John Berge, Sejal Choksi-Chugh, James Farner, Lynn Korwatch, Kathleen Rogers, Peter Santillan, Michael Young, Amir Sharifi (Assistant Deputy Administrator)

**Recording Secretary:**

Brenda Brantley

*This was a TAC Workgroup meeting for members to review, edit and finalize their 2023-2024 Biennial Report to the Legislature.*

**I. 2023-2024 Biennial Report**

The 2023-2024 Biennial Report was reviewed and revised in detail following input from the TAC Members, OSPR staff and Agency Participants present.

**II. Public Comments**

Public comments were invited prior to voting on finalizing the Biennial Report; no comments were made.

**III. 2023-2024 Biennial Report Approval**

The 2023-2024 Biennial Report was approved with the final number of industry plan holder drills and exercises in Northern, Southern and Central California to be inserted after OSPR staff provided the exact number.

**IV. Next meeting**

Matt Rezvani, TAC Chair

The next Biennial TAC meeting is to be set up for the second or third week of April 2025, the exact date to be determined by the results from a Doodle Poll.

**Adjourn Meeting**

## **San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)**

Since our last Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, BCDC staff has participated in a number of oil spill-related and interagency coordination meetings and events across the region:

**SF Harbor Safety Committee.** BCDC participated in the October 2024, January, February, and March 2025 San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) meetings, all in person (the November meeting conflicted with a TAC meeting, December on hiatus). BCDC has started the process to update the 2025 San Francisco Bay Harbor Safety Plan, soliciting sections, data, and information from partners and agencies for the update.

BCDC has also been attending the various HSC subcommittee work group meetings, such as Ferry, Dredge Issues, and Marine Mammals among others, with more scheduled in the near future.

BCDC will attend the three-day PAWSA/IWRAP Bay wide assessment scheduled for mid-April 2025. BCDC attended the Bridge Safety Review meetings in October to help prepare for this.

**Area Contingency Planning.** BCDC staff has continued to coordinate with the Port of San Francisco, the Waterboard, and other parties to address the spill event at Hyde Pier in San Francisco. BCDC has been attending the ongoing bi-weekly meetings. After some contract-related delays, permitting is supposed to begin very soon.

BCDC staff participated virtually in the Regional Response Team IX (RRT9) in February 2025 held in San Diego. BCDC staff has joined the Cultural/Historic Resources and Tribal Engagement subcommittee of RRT9, which also supports the Environmental Justice (EJ) work seen below. This subcommittee hosts monthly meetings, BCDC attended October and November 2024, January and February 2025, and has been creating a series of workshops to support Tribal Engagement During Oil Spill Incidents, with the first scheduled for early May 2025.

BCDC staff attended the Area Committee meeting in November 2024 on Yerba Buena Island.

BCDC attended the November 2024 TAC meeting in person at the West Sacramento office and attended the January 2025 TAC meeting virtually.

**Response and Related Activities.** BCDC staff attended the California Liaison Meeting in February 2025 which connected CDFW liaison officers and contacts across the state to discuss best practices at incidents and receive updates from the team.

BCDC drove out for a deployment drill at Bethel Island in November 2024 and then attended at tabletop drill at Mesa Environmental Services in Benicia also in November 2024, the Marine Express tabletop in Pittsburg in December 2024, and a deployment drill at Martinez Refinery Company in Martinez in March 2025.

BCDC attended the Oil Spill Task Force annual meeting in December 2024.

**Environmental Justice.** BCDC continues to work on their Racial Equity Action Plan, and BCDC staff has been attending State DEI meetings, held every other month. BCDC has reinstated the monthly, internal, Racial Equity Media Club, which has become a bit of a support group to discuss racial and EJ issues with the current federal government to better understand our state work. Additionally, staff participated in a Going Beyond Land Acknowledgement training in February 2025.

A summary of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) Oil Spill Program's (OSP) work activities since the last TAC meeting is provided below:

- **Meetings.** Commission OSP staff attended the following meetings in-person or virtually:

**Twelve Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) meetings:** three Humboldt (HUM) HSC meetings (11/21, 1/16 and 3/20); two San Francisco/Bay Delta (SF/BD) HSC meetings (10/17 and 1/9); three Los Angeles/Long Beach (LA/LB) HSC meetings (10/2, 12/4 and 1/8 [Navigation Subcommittee #2]); one Port Hueneme (PH) HSC meeting (11/7); and three San Diego (SD) HSC meetings (11/20, 1/29 and 3/26).

\*February 2025 LA/LB HSC (2/5) and PH HSC (2/6) were missed due to Regional Response Team Region 9 (RRT9)/Statewide Area Committee meetings held on the same days.

Highlights from this reporting period include the following:

- HUM – Establishment of Harbor Safety Plan Review Subcommittee. Coastal Commission Oil Spill Program Coordinator selected to co-lead the subcommittee. Evaluation of boom deployments in Humboldt Bay.
- SF/BD – Tug asset inventories and availability at Marine Exchange.
- LA/LB – Capture and Control Emission barges proposed best practice operation procedures. Submerged pipeline investigations/surveys are ongoing. Marine Exchange received a NTSB recommendation in the wake of the Huntington Beach pipeline oil spill to place a geofence around the pipeline and the anchorages so vessels will not only get an alarm when they drag anchor, but also when a vessel leaves the anchorage area. A third alarm will be activated if the vessel gets within 400 yards of any pipeline, including the sewage pipeline off Huntington Beach and the anchorages off El Segundo.
- PH – Capture and Control Emission System Barge – New addition to the Port. The mobile barge is designed to envelop a vessel's smokestack, capturing emissions directly at the source. HSC noted that the system was working well without disrupting safe vessel movements/operations.
- SD – Bay Pilots Association BMPs for vessels transiting under the Coronado Bridge added to the Harbor Safety Plan.

Updates to all Harbor Safety Plans are continuous and ongoing.

**Six Area Committee (AC) meetings:** two North Coast (NC) AC meetings (1/16 and 3/20); two Central Coast (CC) AC meetings (10/10 and 1/23); one LA/LB AC meeting (12/12); and one SD AC meeting (11/12).

Updates to all Area Contingency Plans are continuous and ongoing.

**Other meetings attended during this reporting period include:**

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Coordinating Agency Exercises meeting (12/17); Pacific States – British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Annual Meeting (12/5 - virtual); TAC Biennial Report working sessions (11/14 and 1/31); RRT9 Quarterly and Statewide AC meetings (2/5 – 2/6, San Diego); Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) Liaison Biannual meeting (2/20).

- **Coastal Development Projects Reviewed** – Coastal Development Projects in the planning and permitting process that have been reviewed by CCC OSP staff during this reporting period include:

Carpinteria Legacy Well Leak – CCC OSP staff continue to discuss with the City of Carpinteria and CalGem regarding how to address oil seeps from abandoned legacy wells in the intertidal zone.

DCOR Line 0919 – 8" Eva to Fort Apache Replacement. DCOR is planning to install a 4.5" composite pipe within the existing 8-inch steel pipeline that will serve as a casing. OSP staff have been working with the operator on information needs for a complete application, which is expected.

CRPC Pipeline Emmy 12-inch onshore pipeline repair project – CRPC has identified two corrosion anomalies on the onshore portion of the oil transmission pipeline. Repairing these anomalies will require access to the anomalies by excavating the beach sand cover and installing external repair clamps. The City of Huntington Beach recently approved the project under their local coastal plan.

Sable Santa Ynez Unit Pipelines and Offshore Facilities – CCC OSP staff is currently assisting in the review of the Sable Santa Ynez Unit pipelines and offshore facility project, including review of the updated Oil Spill Response Plan.

- **Oil Spills – Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Coordination**  
Refugio Spill and Amplify Pipeline P00547 Spill NRDA – CCC OSP staff continues to coordinate with OSPR in the NRDA process for both the Refugio spill and the Amplify pipeline spill. CCC OSP staff will continue to coordinate with OSPR and other Trustees on potential future restoration projects and any regulatory permitting requirements that may go along with them.
- **New Legislation/Regulations**  
Shoreline Protection Table Updates - Shoreline Protection Tables (SPT) are included in the States regulations and identify sensitive sites to be protected, the hour by which they must be protected, and the response

resources required to provide this protection. The purpose of the tables is to provide response standards by which vessels that transit through California coastal waters can follow to ensure the best achievable protection of sensitive sites of California's shorelines. CCC OSP staff continues to participate in the review of the most recent version of the newly proposed SPT's regulations (subchapter 4.1 and section 828.1 into subdivision 4 of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations – noticed 10/11/2024) and the proposed changes to other regulations collateral to these new proposed regulations. The SPT regulation changes are now in the official rulemaking process.

California State Lands Commission  
Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee Report  
March 25, 2025

### State Budget/Commission Budget/OSPAP

The Governor's Proposed Budget for 2025-26 assumes savings related to departments' vacant position funding and reduced operating budgets in order to achieve a balanced budget. The savings include eliminating 6,500 vacant positions and decreasing operating budgets by up to 7.95 percent. While the Commission's original total budget is \$68,382,000 and includes an appropriation of \$16,931,000 from Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund (OSPAP), these appropriations will decrease in accordance with the reductions above. This means that staff will continue to evaluate spending and exercise prudence when it comes to committing new funds.

#### OSPAP Historical Fund Data

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Expenditures	Savings	Usage
MRMD	\$ 5,498,000	\$ 5,498,000	\$ -	100.0%
MEPD	\$ 8,674,000	\$ 7,480,000	\$ 1,194,000	86.2%
<b>2017-18</b>	<b>\$ 14,172,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,978,000</b>	\$ 1,194,000	91.6%
MRMD	\$ 5,554,000	\$ 5,451,000	\$ 103,000	98.1%
MEPD	\$ 8,592,000	\$ 8,493,000	\$ 99,000	98.8%
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>\$ 14,146,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,944,000</b>	\$ 202,000	98.6%

MRMD	\$ 5,966,000	\$ 4,891,000	\$ 1,075,000	82.0%
MEPD	\$ 9,249,000	\$ 7,731,000	\$ 1,518,000	83.6%
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>\$ 15,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,622,000</b>	\$ 2,593,000	83.0%
MRMD	\$ 5,442,000	\$ 3,405,000	\$ 2,037,000	62.6%
MEPD	\$ 8,600,000	\$ 8,070,000	\$ 530,000	93.8%
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>\$ 14,042,000</b>	<b>\$ 11,475,000</b>	\$ 2,567,000	81.7%
MRMD	\$ 6,237,000	\$ 3,502,000	\$ 2,735,000	56.1%
MEPD	\$ 9,511,000	\$ 9,286,000	\$ 225,000	97.6%
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>\$ 15,748,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,788,000</b>	\$ 2,960,000	81.2%
MRMD	\$ 6,537,000	\$ 4,005,000	\$ 2,532,000	61.3%
MEPD	\$ 9,912,000	\$ 9,550,000	\$ 362,000	96.3%
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>\$ 16,449,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,555,000</b>	\$ 2,894,000	82.4%
MRMD	\$ 6,752,000	\$ 4,893,000	\$ 1,859,000	72.5%
MEPD	\$ 10,207,000	\$ 9,317,000	\$ 890,000	91.3%
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>\$ 16,959,000</b>	<b>\$ 14,210,000</b>	\$ 2,749,000	83.8%



MRMD	\$ 6,778,000	\$ 3,657,000	\$ 3,121,000	54.0%
MEPD	\$ 10,256,000	\$ 5,841,000	\$ 4,415,000	57.0%
<b>2024-25*</b>	<b>\$ 17,034,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,498,000</b>	\$ 7,536,000	55.8%

\*Expenditures through Fiscal Month 08

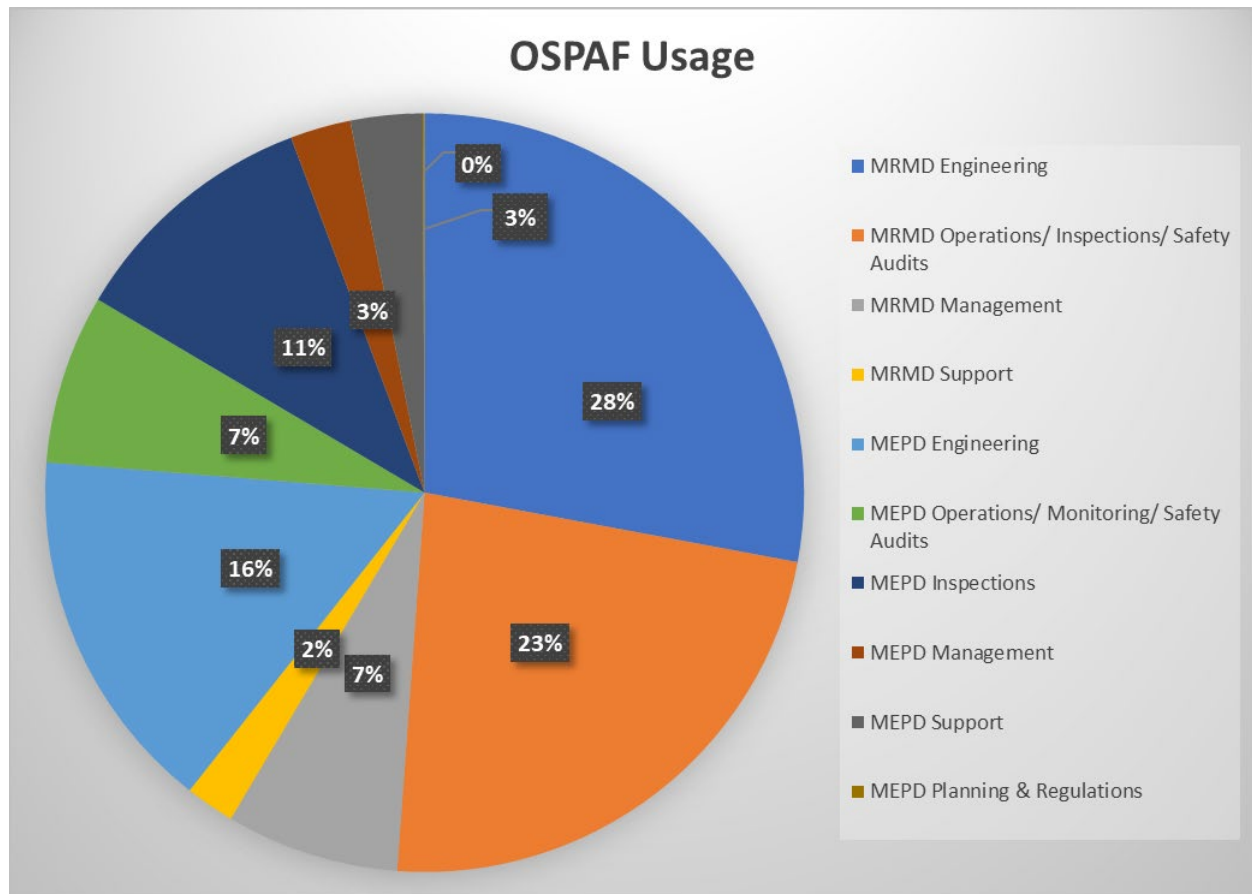
OSPAF Positions:

	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
<b>OSPAF PYs</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>103.0</b>
MRMD	28.3	28.3	28.3	32.0	32.0	32.0
MEPD	64.6	64.6	64.6	71.0	71.0	71.0
<b>State Lands Commission</b>	<b>205.4</b>	<b>210.4</b>	<b>210.4</b>	<b>248.6*</b>	<b>248.6</b>	<b>252.6</b>

\*Change due to a Salaries and Wages realignment Drill done in 21-22

OSPAF Usage:

MRMD Engineering	\$2,707,371
MRMD Operations/ Inspections/ Safety Audits	\$2,250,068
MRMD Management	\$715,026
MRMD Support	\$203,732
MEPD Engineering	\$1,515,795
MEPD Operations/ Monitoring/ Safety Audits	\$699,736
MEPD Inspections	\$1,044,170
MEPD Management	249,962
MEPD Support	\$297,665
MEPD Planning & Regulations	\$7,475



## Pipeline 0919/Platform Eva to Shore Pipeline

In November of 2023 DCOR withdrew its application to repurpose the platform Eva pipeline which was previously used to transport gas to Edith in federal waters. In early 2024, DCOR filed suit against the Commission requesting that the Sacramento County Superior Court direct the Commission to approve the repurposing on a staff level ministerial basis. The application proposed a change of use to transport gross produced fluid through the pipeline from Eva to Edith for processing and sale. Platform Eva remains shut-in whilst DCOR evaluates its options to proceed with a repair to the Eva-Fort Apache pipeline by utilizing a sleeve inside the existing line or to continue with their lawsuit and plan to utilize the pipeline to Platform Edith. DCOR is in possession of the waiver required by the State Fire Marshal to allow sleeving of the Eva-Fort Apache pipeline; however, additional approvals are needed from the Coastal Commission and City of Huntington Beach. The process modification for the Eva-Edith line was approved by BSEE. However, as of March 2025, DCOR was still waiting for the BOEM Development & Production Plan approval. In January 2025, the

Commission and DCOR settled the DCOR litigation and, in light of its authorities, the Commission agreed that DCOR's request to utilize the Eva to Edith lines fell under noticing requirements of Commission regulations (2 C.C.R. sec. 2102) and that DCOR could proceed with that project without further Commission authorization.

Earlier this year, BOEM initiated a review of DCOR's Platform Edith Development and Production Plan (DPP) with assistance from BSEE. BSEE's findings were submitted to BOEM on May 16, 2024. After completing their review of the DPP, BOEM required DCOR to update the supplemental plan to include additional information. DCOR submitted the updated supplemental plan for Edith to BOEM on August 28, 2024. BOEM and BSEE will review the latest information from DCOR and provide an update in September. This may lead to a request from BOEM and BSEE for additional information from DCOR

## **MOT Pipeline Safety and Preventative Maintenance Program**

The Marine Oil Terminal (MOT) Pipeline Preventative Maintenance Program ensures the continued operational reliability of all pipelines used for over-the-water transfers of oil at the State's 35 Marine Oil Terminals. The Commission enforces Chapter 31F of the California Building Code, known as the Marine Oil Terminal Engineering and Maintenance Standards (MOTEMS), and Article 5.5 Marine Terminal Pipeline regulations, and all applicable requirements and guidelines prescribed in API 570 are followed to provide protection of the public health and safety and of the environment by using the best achievable technology in providing for marine oil terminal oil pipeline integrity. To help achieve our goal of zero spills in the state's waters, the staff is planning to conduct an in-depth audit of the state's 35 marine oil terminal pipelines beginning in the fourth quarter of 2025. The audit will focus on pipeline integrity inspections, maintenance, repair, and record keeping.

## **Oil Transfer Monitoring Statistics**

From January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, staff monitored 30 percent of oil transfers (1,492 of 4,929 transfers) conducted at marine oil terminals (MOTs) in California. During this same period, 713,832,009 barrels (29,980,944,378 gallons) of product were transferred at MOTs in California. Each barrel is 42 gallons. Spills directly resulting from oil transfers during this time were just .0238 barrels or 1 gallon. This is approximately 0.000000033 percent of all barrels transferred. In the same time frame, staff conducted 69 spot, annual, and Training and Certification inspections at MOTs.

## Regulations Update

Staff are preparing for rulemaking on Article 5 and MOTEMS for the 2025 calendar year.

## Marine Oil Terminal Engineering and Maintenance Standards (MOTEMS)

In 2023/2024, Commission staff reviewed numerous MOTEMS subsequent audit reports, new design build submittals, evaluations, drawings, inspections, Commission leasing, and CEQA documents from the state's 35 existing MOTs. Overall, MOTs in California continue to make substantial progress toward full MOTEMS compliance. Staff have also been involved with MOT renewable fuels projects, analyzing proposals for new marine terminals and upgrades to existing terminals to support their transition to renewable fuel production. Three of the state's marine oil terminals have transitioned to 100 percent renewable fuels to date.

## Platform/Island Safety Inspection Program

Commission inspectors continued the Commission's inspection program of offshore platforms and islands and onshore drilling and production facilities. The facilities inspected comprise four offshore platforms, four artificial islands, and onshore coastal petroleum production facilities. The inspections include comprehensive testing of all facility pollution prevention equipment and safety alarm, control, and shutdown devices to ensure functionality, accuracy, and reliability. Each facility is inspected monthly and on average, over 2,500 individual items are inspected.

## Safety and Oil Spill Prevention Audit Activities

The Commission's Safety and Oil Spill Prevention Audit program is used to verify regulatory compliance and conformance with safety system design, maintenance, spill prevention, and safety management practices that are key safety elements in preventing accidents and spills for the offshore oil and gas production industry.

The Safety and Oil Spill Prevention Audit of the CalNRG Montalvo onshore drilling and production facilities adjacent to McGrath State Beach in Ventura County began in August 2024. The facility produces from State Offshore leases PRC 735 and PRC 3314 and was recently assigned to CalNRG from CRC. CSLC staff fieldwork began in August 2024 and was completed in October 2024. A third-

party electrical contractor began evaluating the electrical power distribution system in September 2024 and finished fieldwork in October 2024. Technical evaluation and compliance review of equipment functionality and mechanical integrity tests and inspections, preventative maintenance programs, contingency plans, operating procedures, and other safety management programs followed the fieldwork and is currently in progress. The Action Item matrix and Audit Report for West Montalvo are expected to be issued shortly.

After issuing safety audit reports of DCOR's Platform Eva, Esther, and the Fort Apache onshore processing facility, the Safety Audit Team performed a Safety Assessment of Management Systems (SAMS) evaluation of DCOR's process safety management practices. The SAMS process assesses the maturity of development of corporate safety management programs and degree of integration of safety management practices into the workforce. Interviews of a cross-section of DCOR company and contractor employees from all three facilities were conducted in June 2024 and the evaluation report was issued in August.

The Safety Audit Team and the third-party electrical contractor began field work on DCOR's onshore facility in Huntington Beach, called Fort Apache, in February 2024. The field work was completed in March 2024, and the Action Item matrix and the Fort Apache Audit Report was transmitted to DCOR in June 2024. No priority 1 action items, 4 priority 2 action items, and 56 priority 3 action items remain outstanding out of a total of 62 items that were initially identified, these items remain due to the out of service status of the facility.

## Pipeline Inspection and Spill Drill Program

Commission engineers enforce strict pipeline safety regulations that include annual inspections of the eleven oil and gas pipelines from the State's four offshore platforms, as well as inspections of the twenty-four pipelines from Federal OCS Platforms that traverse through state waters to shore. Staff also attend tabletop procedural drills and actual spill equipment and boom deployment drills during the year. In Q4 2024 staff reviewed and attended the following:

- Reviewed and documented the pipeline hydrotesting reports for CRC Platform Emmy to shore – 4-inch low-pressure gas pipeline
- Reviewed and documented CRC Platform Emmy to shore 12-inch oil pipeline smart pig (in-line inspection) pipeline report
- Reviewed and documented DCOR Platform Esther to shore 10-inch gas pipeline smart pig (in-line inspection) pipeline report

- Attended Sable tabletop spill drill for Platform Hondo pipeline to shore.
- Attended CRC tabletop drill for Platform Emmy pipeline to shore.
- Attended BSEE's multi-agency exercise requirement coordination meeting for pollution preparedness.
- Attended CalNRG tabletop spill drill.
- Reviewed and documented the pipeline hydrotesting reports for DCOR Platform Esther – 3.5-inch oil pipeline
- Reviewed and documented the pipeline hydrotesting program for Sable Platform Hondo – 12-inch gas pipeline
- Reviewed and documented the pipeline hydrotesting for Sable Platform Harmony – 20-inch emulsion pipeline
- Reviewed and documented Sable Offshore Span remediation program Platform Harmony – 20-inch emulsion to shore and Platform Hondo – 12-inch gas to Las Flores Canyon
- Reviewed Sable Offshore Platform Harmony to shore - 20-inch emulsion pipeline smart pig (in-line inspection) pipeline report
- Attended Emmy to shore – 3-inch-diameter fiberspar pipeline hydrotest
- Reviewed Elly to shore - 16-inch oil pipeline external (ROV) inspection

## Structural/Facility Engineering Projects

Commission engineers continue to review and evaluate the structural adequacy for all platforms, causeways, and piers associated with the State offshore oil operations. Commission engineers also continue to review the 2024 offshore platform structural inspection reports for Platforms Holly, Emmy, Eva, and Esther. Staff reviewed the above water and below water API survey reports for compliance / conformance with maintenance and safety requirements per API RP 2A and ASCE standards and provided engineering recommendations and on-site verification of any required repair and maintenance work.

## Methane Emissions Reduction Program – CSLC Awarded nearly \$22 Million to Plug and Abandon Marginalized Wells

Since December 2023, Commission staff have been working on a \$22 million Department of Energy (DOE) grant awarded under the Inflation Reduction Act to mitigate methane emissions from marginal oil and gas wells as part of the [Methane Emissions Reduction Program \(Program\)](#). Implementation of the Program is intended to extend over a five-year period through 2028, however on January 28, staff received notification that the federal government has paused the grant and a freeze on any further work is in effect until further notice.

Marginal Conventional Wells (MCWs) are defined as idle or producing onshore vertical or slightly deviated oil and gas wells with a known owner/operator producing less than or equal to 15 barrels of oil per day (BOED). Although this well category accounts for only six percent of oil and gas production in the U.S. they contribute over half of well site methane emissions.

The Commission will identify wells for plug and abandonment that have the most liabilities to the state, especially those on public lands, and prioritize wells by methane emission rate and location and proximity to disadvantaged communities. The grant requires a minimum of 40% of the funding to be used to implement the program in low-income and disadvantaged communities in compliance with the federal government's Justice 40 Initiative. Staff has been working with City of Long Beach and California Resources Corporation (CRC) to identify candidate marginal conventional wells primarily in the West Wilmington field, measure and monitor methane emissions, plug, and abandon wells, and restore well sites. Staff selected West Wilmington as the primary site due to its proximity to disadvantaged communities and presence of MCWs.

Staff have also developed an agreement with CalGEM, have purchased methane detection and measurement equipment, and have trained staff in using Methane detection and quantification equipment. Staff plan to continue to develop all deliverables and required reports for the grant, and identify candidate wells for plug and abandonment in coordination with the City of Long Beach and CRC once the freeze is lifted. Staff have completed initial screening of over 70 wells in West Wilmington field and were in the process of identifying the list of candidate wells for plug and abandonment.

Additional 28 wells were inspected in the last quarter of 2024, two wells were observed leaking methane into the atmosphere, the well's operator was on site, witnessed the leaks and plans are in place to fix the leaks on the short term, before the long term of plugging and abandoning of the leaking wells.

## **Analysis of Impacts to Public Trust Resources from Offshore Oil/Gas Pipeline Leases**

On August 15, 2024, the Commission released a solicitation for consultant services to prepare an Analysis of Impacts to Public Trust Resources and Values (APTR) for 11 offshore oil and gas pipeline leases. The 11 leases include all leases for offshore oil and gas pipelines under the Commission's jurisdiction that transport oil and gas from the offshore platforms in state and federal waters. Because of the age of the pipelines, spill risks, the climate crisis, and the public's evolving needs, the Commission believes it is in the State's best interest to



conduct an up-to-date evaluation of the pipelines' spill risks and impacts to Public Trust resources, based on the best available science and current understanding of California's environmental, economic, and social settings. The APTR will inform the Commission in its review of the 11 pipeline leases and future lease applications for oil and gas pipelines and will include the following information and analyses:

- 1) Pipeline integrity and spill risks
- 2) Potential impacts to coastal and marine ecosystems, economies, tribal cultural resources and sacred landscapes, and underserved and disadvantaged communities
- 3) Consistency with the State's efforts to address the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning towards clean energy resources, while continuing to serve the State's energy needs
- 4) Consistency with the public's current needs, uses, and values of the coastal and marine environments
- 5) Alignment with existing planning processes for phased decommissioning of the oil and gas platforms and pipelines in federal waters
- 6) Alternatives to pipelines and the associated risks, impacts, emissions, and effects on the State's energy supplies
- 7) Recommendations to guide future decision-making for the offshore oil and gas pipeline leases in consideration of all the above information

The Commission issued a 3-year moratorium on accepting and considering new lease applications for new or existing offshore oil and gas pipelines until the APTR is complete.

## Cost Study on Voluntary Relinquishment of State Offshore Oil/Gas Production Lease (AB 2257)

The Commission completed the cost study analyzing the fiscal impact to the State as a result of a voluntary relinquishment of state offshore oil and gas production leases. The study was required by AB 2257, which was enacted after the 2021 Huntington Beach/Amplify oil spill. The Commission submitted the final cost study to the Governor and Legislature by December 2024. As required, the cost study estimated (1) the expected remaining life of the leases; (2) reasonably anticipated future profits and revenues; (3) state revenue to date; (4) the expected remaining life of the reservoirs; and (5) decommissioning and restoration costs. Staff presented the results of the analysis in the December 2024 Commission meeting. The final report is posted on the [Commission's website](#).



## Rincon Decommissioning Project

Staff released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the [Rincon Phase 2 Decommissioning Project](#) on July 16, 2024. The Commission subsequently certified the EIR at its August 29, 2024 meeting and approved the [decommissioning project](#). After the EIR was certified and the project approved, the Commission obtained control of the Coast Ranch parcel adjacent to the existing state-owned onshore facility, this now requires an addendum to the existing EIR which is due to be completed by Q3 2025. Project activities will then be completed during Phase 3 (the timing of which depends on future funding) to prepare Rincon Island and the Onshore Facility for new uses.

## Platform Holly Decommissioning Project

All 30 wells have been abandoned, all well conductors have been removed and the platform has transitioned into a cold stacked caretaker phase while the CEQA process is completed. Technical studies supporting the coming Environmental Impact Report are underway and staff anticipates issuing a Notice of Preparation mid 2025 which will initiate the CEQA process. That will be followed by a draft Environmental Impact Report for public review and comment, which is expected in late 2025.

## Legacy Well Remediation and Coastal Hazards Program

The Commission, through its [Coastal Hazard and Legacy Well Remediation Program](#), continues to investigate old legacy wells along Summerland Beach for hydrocarbon discharge. The Commission's SB 44 Legacy Wells and Coastal Hazards Program provides up to \$2 million per year to remediate legacy oil wells and coastal hazards to protect coastal resources, maximize public access to the beach and coastline, and reduce the presence of oil at Summerland Beach and other similarly situated locations.

Staff also participates in a quarterly seep working group meeting convened by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and UC Davis. The working group shares information about the oil seep research work they have been doing, including preparing an oil seep map and oil fingerprinting to determine a source when a sheen is reported. This work dovetails with the Commission's Coastal Hazards and Legacy Oil and Gas Well Removal and Remediation Program.

The current contract for SB44 well re-abandonments is set to expire on June 29, 2025. The Commission is in the process of preparing a solicitation to retain a

consultant to continue the re-abandonment of Legacy wells and to perform seep studies consistent with SB 44.

The Commission's consultant and staff successfully completed the abandonment of two legacy wells on Summerland beach in February 2025 and are in the process of completing and filing the post abandonment reports.

## Plains All American Pipeline Settlement

The Commission and Aspen American Insurance Company sued Plains in 2018, alleging that Plains' negligent maintenance of its pipeline unjustly shifted decommissioning liability to California taxpayers and terminated the state's royalty income. Plains' negligence also resulted in property damages to Platform Holly that required the Commission's immediate attention to ensure public health and safety. Plains All American Pipeline, L.P., the company the Commission sued, was found criminally responsible for the 2015 Refugio Beach oil spill. The total settlement amount is \$72.5 million, of which \$22 million will go to Aspen American Insurance Company, the bonding company and co-plaintiff. The state will receive \$50.5 million from the settlement.

## Prevention First Symposium

The Prevention First Symposium is in the initial planning phase to hold the next proposed Prevention First Symposium in 2026 depending on budgetary constraints.

## **TAC AGENCY REPORT**

### **CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)**

**April 10, 2025**

#### General Updates

- Release in Carson – Plains pipeline line, approximately 48 - 71 barrels (bbls) released. Cause under investigation; corrosion related.
- Release Port of Long Beach – Olympus Terminals 196 bbls. Cause under investigation; suspected corrosion.
- Public Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI) – OSFM is moving the federal program forward. Goal is to provide free emergency pipeline response training to local agencies.

#### Regulation Updates

- AB 1448 – Coastal resources: oil and gas development.
- AB 881 – CO2 Pipelines.

#### Pipeline Inspections and Activities

- 2025 inspections are ongoing and progressing as planned.

#### Enforcement

- In discussions with Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline for the penalty PHASE for the release in Walnut Creek.

#### Staffing

- Pipeline is currently in the process of updating the Pipeline Safety Engineer and Pipeline Safety Supervisor exam to be available online; aiming to create more opportunities for both the candidates and hiring managers.

END OF REPORT

## OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (OSPR) REGULATIONS & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

(as of March 27, 2025)

*To be added to the distribution list to receive notification of regulation workshop information, proposed regulations and hearing notices, visit OSPR's [Laws and Regulations web page](#).*

### REGULATIONS

#### Shoreline Protection Tables / Sensitive Site Protection

A rulemaking to revise the shoreline/sensitive site protection requirements for vessel and marine facility contingency plan holders, and oil spill response organizations.

- Formal rulemaking commenced October 11, 2024.
- Notice of an additional 15-day public comment period is anticipated within the next few weeks.

#### Renewable Fuels

A.B. 148 (Stats. 2021, Ch. 115) expanded OSPR's authority to address spills of renewable fuels including prevention, preparedness, and response measures, and added the authority to collect a fee from handlers of renewable fuels. [Assembly Bill 148 – Renewable Fuel Frequently Asked Questions](#)

- Regulations in development phase.
- Rulemaking Timeline: No estimated time frame for either pre-rulemaking or formal rulemaking activity.

#### Harmonization of Contingency Plan Regulations

Similar to the Drills and Exercises harmonization accomplished in the fall of 2022, OSPR is making efforts to harmonize the marine and inland contingency plan regulations.

- Will consist of harmonization of facility contingency plan requirements. Vessel contingency plan harmonization will follow at a later time.
- Regulatory Timeline: This arduous task is in its infancy. No estimated time frame for either pre-rulemaking or formal rulemaking activity.

### LEGISLATION

#### [AB 274](#) – Abandoned and Derelict Vessels: Inventory

Introduced by Assembly Member Ransom this bill, as amended on 3/3/25:

- Would require California State Lands Commission, by January 1, 2027, to create an inventory including specified details, of all abandoned and derelict commercial and recreational vessels on or in waters within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including commercially navigable waters.
  - Inventory may be conducted by means of aerial survey from available data collected from federal, state, and local agencies or other data.

(AB 274 continued)

- Adds the following definitions: Commercial vessel, commercially navigable waters, and recreational vessel.

#### **SB 470 – Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing**

Introduced by Senator Laird on 2/19/25, this bill would repeal the January 1, 2026 sunset date on existing laws that authorize state bodies to conduct meetings via teleconference. [Gov. Code sections 11123.2, 11123.5]

#### **SB 542 – Oil Spill Prevention: Administrator for Oil Spill Response: Duties**

Introduced by Senator Limón, as amended on 3/26/25, this bill:

- Would require OSPR establish a public process before the Administrator issues a certificate of financial responsibility.
- Prohibit existing oil pipelines that have not been used for five or more years from being restarted without a hydro test.

#### **SB 839 – Oil Spills: Fishing; Water Closure: Grants: Liability**

Introduced by Senator Laird, this bill, as amended on 3/24/25, would make changes to a number of codes relating to oil spills:

##### *Fisheries Closures*

- Would give discretion to, rather than require, the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to close certain waters to the take of all fish or shellfish, or restrict the take and possession of all fish or shellfish upon notification of a spill or discharge, with the following exceptions:
  - Within 24 hours after notification of a spill, the Director, in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), determines, as specified, a public health threat exists or is likely to exist, a closure is required.
- Would make it unlawful to take any fish or shellfish from waters that have been closed, or to violate any restriction from the take of any fish or shellfish from closed waters.
- Would authorize OEHHA to seek full reimbursement from the responsible party for all reasonable costs it incurs.

##### *Grant Eligibility*

- Would change the nomenclature used for tribes eligible for oil spill response equipment grants offered by OSPR from “Native American tribes” to “federally recognized tribes.”
- Expands eligibility for other grants offered by OSPR to federally recognized tribes.

##### *Spills from Pleasure Boats*

- Would no longer allow an exemption to responsible parties of private pleasure boats or vessels from liability for damages caused by a discharge or leak of oil or natural gas.

**SB 856 – *Marine Invasive Species Act: Biennial reports: Semiannual Updates***

Introduced by the Committee on Natural Resources and Water on 3/11/25, this bill:

- Would extend the frequency of a report by the State Lands Commission regarding the state's efforts to stop nonindigenous species from entering the state by vessel ballast water. Currently the report is required biennially. This bill would instead require it triennially.
- Would require the Commission to publish and keep updated a summary of the report on its website.

CALIFORNIA OIL SPILL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom  
Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas  
Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire  
Members of the California State Legislature

**Re: 2023-2024 Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee Biennial Report  
Regarding California Oil Spill Response and Preparedness**

The Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (Act) established the Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC consists of fourteen (14) members, eight (8) of whom are appointed by the Governor, three (3) by the Speaker of the Assembly, and three (3) by the Senate Rules Committee. (See Govt. Code §8670.54, *et seq.* and SB 861).

The TAC is mandated with providing public input and independent oversight of the actions of the Administrator of the Office of Spill Prevention and Response. The TAC may also provide recommendations to the California State Lands Commission, the California Coastal Commission, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission on any provision of the Act including the promulgation of all rules, regulations, guidelines and policies.

The TAC is required to provide the Governor and the Legislature with a biennial report on their evaluation of oil spill response and preparedness programs within the State. This report covers calendar years 2023 and 2024. In addition, the TAC may also prepare and send to the Governor and the Legislature any additional reports it may determine to be appropriate.

California continues to be a nationwide leader and model for oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, thanks in part to your support. On behalf of the TAC, we are proud to present this report for your consideration and we welcome any thoughts and comments.

Sincerely,



Matt Rezvani  
Chair  
California Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee

**2023-2024 REPORT**  
**BY THE**  
**OIL SPILL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**TO THE**  
**GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE**

**PURSUANT TO THE**  
**LEMPERT-KEENE-SEASTRAND OIL SPILL PREVENTION**  
**AND RESPONSE ACT**  
**GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 8670.1, *ET SEQ.***

**February 2025**





## **Executive Summary**

The statute § 8670.55 (d) requires the Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide this report on a biennial basis. The TAC presents this report to the Governor and the Legislature of California as an opportunity to review our activities of the past two years and discuss priority issues and recommendations for the State's oil spill program for 2025-2026.

The report follows the format of recent reports, which we hope informs the Governor and the Legislature of the important issues with which the TAC has been engaged, as well as adequately highlighting the issues critical to our state oil spill preparedness, prevention, and response. The California Oil Spill Program encompasses programs administered by:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)
- California State Lands Commission
- California Coastal Commission
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Additionally, the Oil Spill Program works in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Conservation, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the United States Coast Guard and other agencies.

As in previous years, the TAC is impressed with the professionalism of the dedicated staff of these agencies in meeting their mandate of providing the best achievable protection of the State's valuable natural resources from oil spills.

Each year, OSPR is notified of approximately 1,500 spill incidents, with approximately 20% resulting in a physical response by the field response teams and the rest managed by telephone response.

Throughout the period covered by this report, the TAC has received periodic updates on these agencies' Strategic Plans, day-to-day activities, and continuing challenges and successes in carrying out the mandates of their respective programs. In the 2023-2024 Issues and Accomplishments section of this report, we highlight topics the TAC monitored over the past two years.

A discussion of issues the TAC feels will continue to be of interest and worthy of attention are included in the section of this report entitled Priority Issues for the TAC 2025-2026.

These issues include:

- Submerged cables and pipelines
- Abandoned and derelict vessels
- Renewable fuels manufacturing, transportation, and related fees
- Petroleum product transportation
- Monitoring of oil spill-related legislation
- Regulation development and implementation.

## **Recommendations**

The issues above form the basis for the following recommendations from the TAC to the Governor and Legislature.

- Address the need for adequate warning, and protective maintenance of navigational hazards related to submerged cables and pipelines.
- Address the impacts associated with abandoned and derelict vessels, including possibly developing dedicated funding.
- Ensure that OSPR has the spending authority and adequate resources to meet mandated operational needs.
- Request that the Governor fill the two vacant TAC member positions.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background.....	1
OSPR Key Accomplishments 2023-2024.....	4
Priority Issues for TAC in 2025-2026 .....	8
Recommendations.....	10
Conclusions .....	10
APPENDICES.....	11
Appendix A.....	12
Appendix B .....	14

## **Background**

### **Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act**

The Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (Act) was signed into law on September 22, 1990 (S.B. 2040, Stats. 1990, Ch. 1248). The overall purpose of the Act is to prevent and clean up oil spills to State waters and to restore damage to the environment. Specific findings by the Legislature concerning the California coast and the threat of pollution from marine oil spills motivated the adoption of the Act. The Administrator of the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) are vested with the primary responsibility for implementing the Act.

The staff of OSPR is comprised of personnel within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. They coordinate and directly respond to marine and inland oil spills and work with public and private entities to prepare for and prevent spills. Some notable federal partners include the United States Coast Guard (USCG); United States Environmental Protection Agency; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Bureau of Safety, Environment, and Enforcement, as well as state and local agencies and communities through engaged Area Committees chaired by the USCG and OSPR.

In addition, to address marine spills, five Harbor Safety Committees develop harbor safety plans for the following:

- Port of San Diego
- Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach
- Port Hueneme
- San Francisco Bay Area
- Humboldt Bay

Similarly, Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) are developed for priority inland waters of the state with higher risk of an oil spill. GRPs are coordinated by OSPR and vetted through the regional Local Emergency Planning Committees comprised of industry representatives, Federal, State, and local government agencies, public health agencies, tribal representatives, and other interested parties.

Other services to aid in safer navigation of California State Waters are the United States Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Services in San Francisco and Los Angeles/Long Beach, and the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems.

## **Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee**

One component of the Act was the creation of the Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC provides public input and independent judgment of the actions of the Administrator of OSPR.

With the passage of SB 861, the Legislature expanded membership of the TAC to include Fourteen (14) members, as follows:

- Eight (8) members appointed by the Governor
- Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
- Three (3) members appointed by the Senate Rules Committee.

During the last two years, there were four new appointments to the TAC. However, there are still two vacancies to be filled by the Governor.

The members have backgrounds in marine transportation, local government, oil spill response and prevention programs, the petroleum industry, state government, environmental protection and ecosystems, the dry cargo vessel industry, the railroad industry, the oil production industry, and the public interest.

Pursuant to its by-laws, TAC members serve until being replaced by the appointing authority, resigning, or being asked to resign after a vote of at least two thirds of the appointed TAC members. (See Appendix B for current TAC member information).

The TAC makes recommendations to the Administrator, the CSLC, the California Coastal Commission (CCC), and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) on any provision of the Act, including the promulgation of all rules, regulations, guidelines, and policies.

At its own discretion, the TAC may study, comment on, or evaluate any aspect of oil spill prevention and response in the State. To the greatest extent possible, these studies are to be coordinated with studies being done by the Federal government, the Administrator, the CSLC, the State Water Resources Control Board, and other appropriate State and international entities.

Since 2003, the TAC has been required to report biennially to the Governor and the Legislature on its evaluation of marine oil spill prevention and response within the State. As of the 2017-2018 biennial report and moving forward, assessment of inland spill prevention and response has also been included. The TAC may prepare and send any additional reports it determines to be appropriate to the Governor and the Legislature.

The TAC meets at least twice a year and sometimes more often, if necessary, to advise and monitor the agency's program activities, successes, and gaps. All TAC meetings are open to the public pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and portions of each meeting are devoted to public input on any issue affecting California's statewide oil spill programs.



## **OSPR Key Accomplishments**

OSPR continues to demonstrate its critical role in safeguarding California's natural resources through a proactive and multifaceted approach to oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response. Central to OSPR's mission are its rigorous drills and exercises, which serve as the foundation for operational readiness and cross-agency coordination. These efforts highlight the importance of seamless coordination across all levels of government to ensure an effective response to potential oil spills.

In addition to Area Contingency Plans, GRPs are another cornerstone of OSPR's preparedness strategy. These plans provide location-specific guidance for rapid oil spill response, emphasizing the protection of sensitive environmental and cultural resources. Fieldwork for additional GRPs, including the Klamath River, underscores OSPR's commitment to refining its response strategies statewide. These efforts align with OSPR's overarching goal to harmonize regulations, integrate local input, and ensure readiness at all levels.

In tandem with these efforts, OSPR has leveraged advancements in technology to enhance responder safety and improve situational awareness during spill events. These technological innovations further reinforce OSPR's ability to respond swiftly and effectively, minimizing the impact of oil spills on California's diverse ecosystems.

Through these and other accomplishments, OSPR underscores the vital importance of comprehensive drills, regulatory advancements, and interagency coordination in maintaining California's leadership in oil spill prevention and response.

- **Drills & Exercises**

New regulations (Section 820.1) harmonizing drills and exercises requirements came into effect in January 2023. Plan holder workshops were conducted across northern and southern regions. OSPR completed all required industry plan holder drills and exercises in Northern, Southern and Central California totaling 326. Drill and exercise participants are tested against specific objectives such as Incident Command Structure, Protective Strategies, and Wildlife Care, and their performance is evaluated.

- **Geographic Response Plans**

OSPR has advanced its GRP program by updating and finalizing plans for key waterways.

- Lower American River (Sacramento County) – The final draft is being reviewed by the OSPR Executive Team. OSPR anticipates finalizing the GRP by the end of March 2025.
- Klamath River (Siskiyou, Humboldt, Del Norte Counties) – The first draft of the GRP has been sent to the GRP Subcommittee for review.
- Salinas River (Monterey County) – Field data collection and document preparation is in progress.
- San Diego River (San Diego County) – Field work is in the beginning stages of reconnaissance as OSPR determines the GRP boundary.
- Ballona Creek 5-Year Update (Los Angeles County) – The Ballona Creek 5-year update is complete and uploaded to OSPR's website.
- Cajon Pass 5-Year Update (San Bernardino County) – Field work is complete. OSPR adding one new response site and removing one access/observation site as well as working on map updates and document preparation.
- Kern River 5-Year Update (Kern County) – Field work for the Kern River 5-year update began in December 2024 and is continuing into early spring 2025.
- Walker River GRP Update (Mono County) – Field teams have completed data collection and are now working with the State of Nevada to create a single interstate plan.
- Truckee River GRP Update (Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties) – OSPR staff conducted field reconnaissance for the existing Truckee River GRP response strategy sites along with State of Nevada partners and an Oil Spill Response Organization in the summer of 2023. Additional site visits will be conducted in the fall of 2024. OSPR staff and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) participated in a field reconnaissance day with the State of Nevada (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection) to review strategy sites along the Truckee River in Nevada. Additional field visits will be scheduled for the Nevada sections of the Truckee River.

- **Oil Spill Response Data Collection through Technology**

OSPR implemented technological improvements for responder safety, data collection during response (i.e., iPhone applications) and communications. In addition, coordination between OSPR, USCG, and other agencies on GIS and Unoccupied Aerial Systems mapping was improved to increase situational awareness during spill responses.

- **Tribal Coordination**

In the Spring of 2023, OSPR established a full-time Tribal Liaison position to aid the Liaison Unit to enhance engagement with California Native American Tribes and foster meaningful partnerships. This position aims to create and implement opportunities for tribes to actively participate in OSPR's prevention, preparedness and response programs, and outreach activities. These opportunities include expanding OSPR's tribal grant programs, encouraging tribal involvement in the Sensitive Site Strategy Environmental Program—focused on protecting sensitive sites during oil spills—and promoting participation in industry-led oil spill response exercises. The goal is also to broaden access to additional grant opportunities. OSPR currently offers several grant programs, including the Response Equipment Grant, which provides oil spill response equipment to Tribal Nations to protect their lands and ancestral territories from the impacts of an oil spill.

- **State Oil Spill Contingency Plan**

OSPR released the triannual State Oil Spill Contingency Plan, incorporating legislative, regulatory, and programmatic updates to improve statewide spill response, including:

- Incorporating responses to renewable fuels
- Spill Management Team Certification
- Drill and Exercises harmonization.

- **Vessel Compliance**

The Certificate of Financial Responsibility Unit received and reviewed over 7,000 Protection and Indemnity insurance documents for processing, ensuring vessels' compliance with financial responsibility requirements.

- **Environmental Restoration**

During this reporting period, OSPR had the following environmental restoration successes:

- Settlement with Chevron for Kern County spills placed \$6.8 million into the OSPR Environmental Enhancement Fund for restoration projects.
- Refugio Oil Spill Trustee Council allocated over \$2.4 million to habitat and recreational use projects in Central and Southern California.
- Over \$1.1 million from the small spill settlements were allocated to eight habitat restoration projects.

- **Internal Training**

OSPR Training Program finalized OSPR staff Incident Command position qualification tracking, completion, and accountability to improve oil spill response training and ensure readiness.

- **Response**

Several medium sized and/or long-term oil spill incidents occurred in this reporting period, with successful responses conducted, including the Toro Canyon Creek Incident, Mazapeta Tug Incident, Anaheim Cellar Facility Incident, Dunsmuir Railyard Incident, Aurora Vessel Incident, Foxtrot Anchorage Mystery Spill, and others.

- **Outreach**

As of August 2024, OSPR awarded \$95,000 in Tribal Nation grants to participate in exercises, planning meetings, and other spill response and training activities. Also, for the same period, OSPR awarded \$315,000 in local-government equipment and planning grants.

One notable effort OSPR Liaison helped coordinate was an Open House for the Dunsmuir Railyard Shoreline Response Action and Restoration Project to address concerns from the community and elected officials. The event was well received by the public.

## **Priority Issues for TAC in 2025-2026**

For the period of the next two years, the TAC will focus on the following issues. While priorities can change based on events and issues that may develop, the following issues will require the TAC's continued attention.

### **Submerged Cables and Pipelines**

Submerged cables and pipelines continue to be a major concern due to navigational safety and potential spills. The 2021 incident in Huntington Beach, where an Amplify pipeline was apparently damaged due to being hit and dragged by the anchor of a vessel, highlights the importance of this issue.

There are several submerged cables and pipelines in California waters and the TAC has significant concerns with identification, maintenance, and protection of these submerged infrastructures. While outside of OSPR's purview, the TAC will continue to monitor the issue.

### **Abandoned and Derelict Vessels**

The TAC has been concerned about the large number of abandoned and derelict vessels in State waters as they pose navigation and spill hazards. There are various grants available, but those are insufficient to adequately address the problem. In addition, a broad analysis of potential strategies to address the issue should be pursued.

SB 1065 – *Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program (ADCV)* was introduced by Senator Eggman in 2022 and was vetoed.

As introduced, this bill would have established, within the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program Coordinating Council responsible for:

- Overseeing and providing policy direction for the program.
- It would have also required the CSLC, in coordination with the Council, to develop a plan to provide a strategic framework to facilitate and track actions to prevent or reduce ADCVs and provide specific enforcement authorities to peace officers.

The TAC continues to have significant concern about commercial and recreational abandoned and derelict vessels and will continue to monitor the issue.

## **Shoreline Protection Tables / Sensitive Site Protection**

OSPR has been exploring alternative ways to present the myriad details laid out in the current tables, to make sensitive site protection clearer and more user friendly, and that would eliminate the frequent need to update the tables to be consistent with the varying area contingency plan updates. The rule is expected to be promulgated in 2025. The TAC will be monitoring the progress of these efforts.

## **Renewable Fuels**

A.B. 148 (Stats. 2021, ch. 115) expanded OSPR's authority to address spills of renewable fuels including prevention, preparedness, and response measures, and added the authority to collect a fee from handlers of renewable fuels.

Rulemaking is expected to commence after completion of Sensitive Site Protection Tables rulemaking is completed. The TAC will be monitoring the progress of these efforts for purposes of making potential recommendations.

## **TAC Members Vacancies**

From the start, the Act created the TAC to provide public input and independent judgment of the actions of the Administrator of OSPR. SB 861 expanded membership of the TAC to fourteen (14) members. To date, not all fourteen members have been appointed. There are still two vacancies to be filled by the Governor. The TAC recommends that the Governor fill these vacancies with the appropriate members as designated in the Act.

## **OSPR Budget Status**

Critical OSPR staff positions and associated funding were eliminated due to the budget shortfall. OSPR is currently determining how to prioritize OSPR's obligations. It is imperative that the agency has sufficient resources to meet all its mandated operational needs. OSPR's primary funding comes from a per barrel fee for oil received at refineries and products moved into the state.



## **Recommendations**

- Address the need for adequate warning, and protective maintenance of navigational hazards related to submerged cables and pipelines.
- Address the impacts associated with abandoned and derelict vessels, including possibly developing dedicated funding.
- Ensure that OSPR has the spending authority and adequate resources to meet mandated operational needs.
- Request that the Governor fill the two vacant TAC member positions.

## **Conclusions**

The TAC is a forum to provide public input and independent oversight of the OSPR Administrator and the oil spill programs of California. In the last few years, new opportunities in the use of technology have emerged, not only in the areas of OSPR's staff communications, but also in improving information sharing and mapping during response and drills. OSPR also made significant progress in communication, training and building relations with California's tribal communities.

The TAC will continue to closely monitor and make recommendations as appropriate to ensure OSPR has sufficient resources to fulfill OSPR's mission and meet mandates. The TAC will work very closely with the Administrator to provide public input and independent judgment regarding the operations of oil spill prevention and response activities in the state. The TAC will also make timely recommendations to the Administrator, the CSLC, the CCC, and the BCDC on pertinent provisions of the Act including the promulgation of all rules, regulations, guidelines, and policies.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A**

**Appendix B**

## **Appendix A**

### **California Government Code**

[Selected Sections; January 2015]

#### **Article 8. Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee**

##### **§ 8670.54. Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee established; appointment of members**

- (a) The Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee, hereafter in this article, the committee, is hereby established to provide public input and independent judgment of the actions of the administrator. The committee shall consist of 14 members, of whom eight shall be appointed by the Governor, three by the Speaker of the Assembly, and three by the Senate Rules Committee. The appointments shall be made in the following manner:
  - (1) The Speaker of the Assembly and Senate Committee on Rules shall each appoint a member who shall be a representative of the public.
  - (2) The Governor shall appoint a member who has a demonstrable knowledge of marine transportation.
  - (3) The Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules shall each appoint two members who have demonstrable knowledge of environmental protection and the study of ecosystems.
  - (4) The Governor shall appoint a member who has served as a local government elected official or who has worked for a local government.
  - (5) The Governor shall appoint a member who has experience in oil spill response and prevention programs.
  - (6) The Governor shall appoint a member who has been employed in the petroleum industry.
  - (7) The Governor shall appoint a member who has worked in state government.
  - (8) The Governor shall appoint a member who has demonstrable knowledge of the dry cargo vessel industry.
  - (9) The Governor shall appoint a member who has demonstrable knowledge of the railroad industry.
  - (10) The Governor shall appoint a member who has demonstrable knowledge of the oil production industry.
- (b) The committee shall meet as often as required, but at least twice per year. Members shall be paid one hundred dollars (\$100) per day for each meeting and all necessary travel expenses at state per diem rates.
- (c) The administrator and any personnel the administrator determines to be appropriate shall serve as staff to the committee.
- (d) A chair and vice chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the committee.

**§ 8670.55. Recommendations from committee; studies; attendance at drills or oil spills; biennially reporting**

- (a) The committee shall provide recommendations to the administrator, the State Lands Commission, the California Coastal Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the Public Utilities Commission, on any provision of this chapter, including the promulgation of all rules, regulations, guidelines, and policies.
- (b) The committee may study, comment on, or evaluate, at its own discretion, any aspect of oil spill prevention and response in the state. To the greatest extent possible, these studies shall be coordinated with studies being done by the federal government, the administrator, the State Lands Commission, the State Water Resources Control Board, and other appropriate state and international entities. Duplication with the efforts of other entities shall be minimized.
- (c) The committee may attend any drills called pursuant to Section 8670.10 or any oil spills, if practicable.
- (d) The committee shall report biennially to the Governor and the Legislature on its evaluation of oil spill response and preparedness programs within the state and may prepare and send any additional reports it determines to be appropriate to the Governor and the Legislature.

**§ 8670.56. Funding**

The administrator may expend from the Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund any amounts necessary for the purposes of carrying out this article.

**§ 8670.56.1. Committee members; immunity from liability**

- (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that because the administrator must rely on expertise provided by members of the committee and be guided by their recommendations in making decisions that relate to the public safety, members of the committee should be entitled to the same immunity from liability provided other public employees.
- (b) Members of the committee appointed pursuant to this article, while performing duties required by this article or by the administrator, shall be entitled to the same rights and immunities granted public employees by Article 3 (commencing with Section 820) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 3.6 of Title 1. Those rights and immunities are deemed to have attached, and shall attach, as of the date of appointment of the member to the committee.

END

## **Appendix B**

### **Office of Spill Prevention and Response OIL SPILL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Matt Rezvani (Chairman)**

Appointed by Governor  
As Petroleum Representative

**Ms. Janell Myhre (Vice Chair)**

Appointed by Governor  
As Local Government Representative

**Mr. John Berge**

Appointed by Governor  
As Dry Cargo Industry Representative

**Ms. Sejal Choksi-Chugh**

Appointed by Senate Rules Committee  
As Environment/Ecosystems Representative

**Mr. Joseph Cobb**

Appointed by Governor  
As Oil Production Industry Representative

**Mr. James Farner**

Appointed by Governor  
As Railroad Industry Representative

**Ms. Lynn Korwatch**

Appointed by Governor  
As Marine Transportation Representative

**Mr. Peter Santillan**

Appointed by Speaker of the Assembly  
As Public Representative

**Mr. Edward D. Harmon**

Appointed by Senate Rules Committee  
As Public Representative

**Ms. Kathleen Rogers**

Appointed by Speaker of the Assembly  
As Environment/Ecosystems Representative

**Mr. Michael C. Young**

Appointed by Speaker of the Assembly  
As Environment /Ecosystems Representative

**Ms. Rue M. Furch**

Appointed by Senate Rules Committee  
As Environment/Ecosystems Representative

**Vacancy**

To be appointed by Governor  
As Oil Spill Response Representative

**Vacancy**

To be appointed by Governor  
As State Government Representative